BATMAN

the BLACK CASEBOOK

The stories that inspired
BATMAN R.I.P.

Introduction by
GRANT MORRISON

BATMAN: THE BLACK CASEBOOK

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BATMAN: THE BLACK CASEBOOK

Introduction by **Grant Morrison**

Back in 1995 when editor Peter Tomasi approached me about writing the monthly BATMAN comic I wondered what I could possibly bring to the character that hadn't been seen before. After 70 years of continuous monthly publication in BATMAN, DETECTIVE COMICS and others, Batman had appeared in every kind of story imaginable, as I soon found out when I tried to read a representative cross-section.

The cornerstones of my research for the project were the DC collected editions BATMAN IN THE '40s through to BATMAN IN THE '80s, along with Michael Fleischer's indispensable BATMAN ENCYCLOPEDIA and BATMAN FROM THE '30s TO THE '70s — in a beloved, dog-eared edition I bought when I was 18.

Reading through the books, one of the first things I realized was that my original big idea — a story about the Gotham Police Department secretly turning cops into Batman surrogates in the event of the Dark Knight's demise — had ALREADY been done in a 1953 story entitled 'The Secret Star.' I found myself having to think on a bigger scale, and it occurred to me that no one had really considered the cumulative effect of all these wild adventures on Bruce Wayne's mind.

So I decided to treat the entire publishing history of Batman as the events in one man's extraordinarily vivid life. This for me was the story that hadn't been told yet, the story of how his life might include the complete trajectory of Batman as a character from the 1930s to the 2000s. The story of what that life might do to a man's mind. And the story of an ultimate villain capable of exploiting that entire history as a means of destroying Batman. This would be a tale of evil plots played out across years, the story of the ultimate diabolical mastermind, the most sinister, most unexpected foe of all, the evil manipulator known as The Black Glove.

I imagined a rough timeline that allowed me to compress 70 years' worth of Batman's adventures into a frantic 15 years in the life of an extraordinary man (I'm not suggesting this is canon and other writers may disagree with my scheme, but it helped me to develop a story capable of incorporating Batman's history itself as the driving force of the plot). This approach, however, required me to deal with and recuperate some of the more problematic areas of that long history, in particular the despised "sci-fi Batman" era of the 1950s when the Dark Knight Detective was thrust awkwardly into stories involving other dimensions, time machines, space travel and colorful alien worlds.

Most Batman fans prefer to ignore the often surreal and outlandish stories of the '50s and for good reason, as they tend to violate some of the basic "real world" rules which help to make Batman's adventures convincing to an older and more sophisticated audience. Nevertheless, the fact that Batman could sustain almost a decade of this fairy tale weirdness without losing his appeal suggested to me that there was some mileage to be had by revisiting a period in Batman's life where constant exposure to Joker toxins, phobia gases and other powerful mind-altering chemicals was beginning to take its toll. This long-repressed material, most of it erased from Batman's officiol history, became for me a rich source of inspiration and allowed me to see the character from a very different angle.

So I decided to introduce the revelation that Batman keeps a "Black Casebook," his own version of the *X-Files*, where all the bizarre, supernatural or logic defying encounters of his career can be recorded. This allowed me to set up the be-all-and-end-all story of The Black Casebook, Batman's strangest, most "supernatural" case — "Batman R.I.P." The stories collected here are mostly from that Day-Glo, anything-goes period and are typical of the kind of material I wanted to reframe in the modern, grounded and "believable" context of current Batman continuity. Many of the stories from this era are little more than throwaway fantasies for small children but there are some real gems too.

In The Man Who Ended Batman's Career we see Batman facing a well-thought-out plan o destroy his confidence and undermine his mission. This kind of story where the challenge is psychological and aimed at deconstructing the man from the inside-out, made a refreshing change from the usual punch-ups and was an early progenitor of the type of approach we used in "Batman R.I.P."

Batman — The Superman of Planet X is an odd little "it was all a dream... or was it?" type of story, which demonstrates just how far from the core concept Batman creators were willing to stray if they thought it might entertain their young audience. This adventure occurred one month after Batman was exposed to Professor Milo's mind-bending gas attack and I chose to interpret "Planet X" as a flashback of sorts, a self-aggrandizing power fantasy to compensate for the complete loss of motivation and strength Batman experienced at Milo's hands. The Planet X of the title is also known as Zur-En-Arrh in the story. This curiously evocative dream-phrase was to play a major role in "Batman R.I.P."

Enter Bat-Mite — Superman had his Mr. Myxyzptlk, the mischievous, magical imp from the 5th Dimension, so it probably came as no surprise when idea-strapped editors decided to import the concept to Batman's world, where the notion of the imp sat somewhat uneasily. In spite of Bat-Mite's seeming ridiculousness, he was a big hit with young kids and the concept has been revived and rationalized again and again in the intervening years.

The First Batman — tells the story of how Bruce Wayne's doomed dad, Thomas Wayne, foreshadowed his son's choice of crime fighting gear while attending a masquerade ball in a magnificent and memorably operatic bat costume. This treasured memento is adopted to great effect and evil intent by the villainous Doctor Hurt in "Batman R.I.P."

The Batmen of Many Nations always fascinated me and I wondered what had happened to them in the years since Batman first met them. I'd included a new version of "England's Batman," the Knight, and his sidekick the Squire into my JLA stories and became fascinated enough by them to create an imaginary 4-issue series about the pair. I guess every writer must have certain charac-

ters that come alive and seem to grow and develop in their heads. Every time I go back, I add another little detail to their lives. One day I'd love to do my Squire and Knight story but in the meantime, here they are in their original appearance.

The International Batmen returned as The Club of Heroes in this sequel, older but not necessarily wiser, and it's here we first meet the billionaire John Mayhew who plays a big part in Batman's encounter with the sinister Black Glove. There was just something about that man I never trusted. When I revived the Club of Heroes for "The Island of Mister Mayhew," I added a couple of members to the team.

Wingman makes his debut in A Partner for Batman, forcing the young Robin to confront once again his deepest fears. And in Batman — Indian Chief we're introduced to Chief Man-of-the-Bats and his son Little Raven, another pair of characters I find absolutely fascinating and loaded with potential.

The Rainbow Batman and The Batman Creature are here as examples of how strange the Black Casebook could get. I've only ever seen the cover images for these stories and haven't actually read them, so I hope I'm in for a treat.

Am I Really Batman? is an eerie and paranoid gem of a story. Its images of a deranged Batman waking up in a mental home or sleeping rough in Gotham's alleyways are genuinely unsettling and ahead of their time. The outlandish resolution comes as a relief after the incredible build up of dread and disorientation. Professor Milo is at it again, in this one dosing Batman with another bizarre mind-control drug, as if intent on providing future writers with rational get-out clauses for some of Batman's weirder experiences! The "Professor Milo" who appears in this story doesn't look much like "Professor Milo" from "The Man Who Ended Batman's Career," but their MOs are similar enough for us to presume that we're looking at the same man.

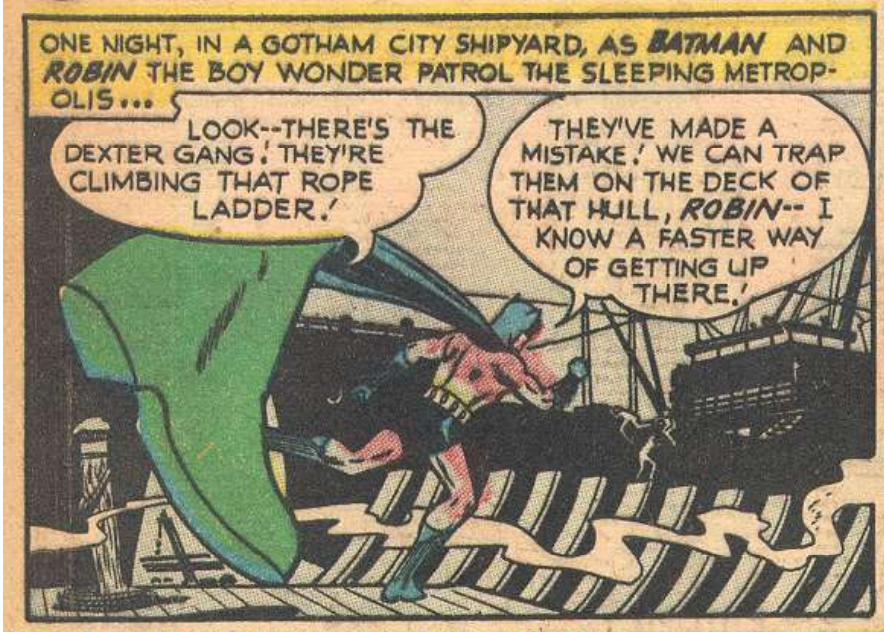
Robin Dies At Dawn — the cover for this story, with its doom-laden title, struck a chord of uncanny terror in my young soul when first I saw it reprinted on the cover of a Batman annual. The red sun, the unearthly landscape, the somber mood and central image of a doomed, weeping Batman carrying a DEAD Robin brought a genuine chill I can still recall. The idea of the emotionally vulnerable hero was shocking and yet somehow made him more relatable. The Batman here inspired the character under pressure of "Batman R.I.P." The isolation experiment at the heart of this remarkable story provided the rocket fuel for "R.I.P." and even the seemingly innocent but somehow spooky and oracular figure of the "military doctor" in this story was retconned by me as Batman's ultimate villain, making this the first appearance of the sinister "Doctor Hurt," whose words here take on new meaning in hindsight.

This story is also significant in its treatment of the otherworldly and surreal elements. As '50s Batman yields to '60s Batman and the more credible "New Look" approach looms, the aliens are no longer genuine extraterrestrials but creatures of inner space, the product of hallucinations and distorted psychology. Realism has returned to the streets of Gotham City and it will be many decades before any of these tales from the Black Casebook are reintegrated into Bat-continuity.

So while Batman's out for a bit, let's sneak a look at some of the adventures he'd probably much rather forget, as carefully recorded in The Black Casebook.

Grant Morrison
Glasgow, Scotland
February 2009

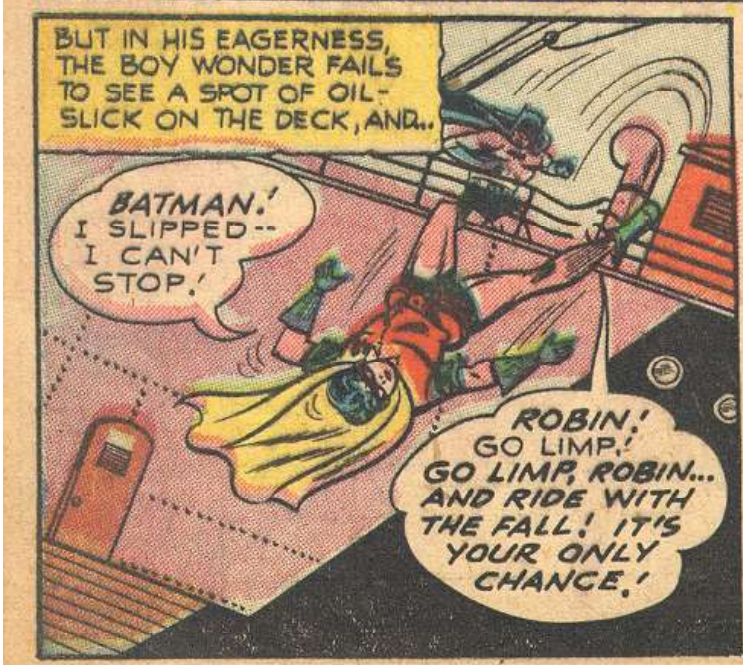
BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER -
FOR MANY YEARS, BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE THROUGH THE THICK AND THIN OF BATTLES AGAINST CRIME. CAN IT BE THAT AT LONG LAST THE PARTNERSHIP IS TO BE DISSOLVED ?!! WHO IS THIS WINGMAN WHO SOARS THROUGH THE NIGHT AS BATMAN'S NEW ALLY -- DOING THE JOBS THAT ROBIN ONCE DID ?!! THE SURPRISING ANSWERS ARE ALL HERE -- IN THE TENSE STORY CALLED --
"A Partner for BATMAN!"
by BOB KANE
BUT WHERE'S ROBIN?!!
WHO NEEDS ROBIN? BATMAN'S GOT WINGMAN NOW!
JEWELRY


ONE NIGHT, IN A GOTHAM CITY SHIPYARD, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER PATROL THE SLEEPING METROPOLIS...
LOOK--THERE'S THE DEXTER GANG! THEY'RE CLIMBING THAT ROPE LADDER!
THEY'VE MADE A MISTAKE! WE CAN TRAP THEM ON THE DECK OF THAT HULL, ROBIN-- I KNOW A FASTER WAY OF GETTING UP THERE!

THIS IS A NICE, HANDY WAY TO TRAVEL!
WE'LL ATTACK THEM HEAD-ON! THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT THEM!

AND, A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
THIS IS THE END OF THE DEXTER GANG!
BATMAN AND ROBIN! HOW'D THEY GET HERE SO FAST!

IN A BRIEF BUT FURIOUS STRUGGLE, BATMAN AND ROBIN OVERCOME THEIR OPPONENTS. THEN...
I'LL TIE THEM UP! ROBIN, GET DOWN TO A PHONE AND CALL THE POLICE.
RIGHT!


BUT IN HIS EAGERNESS, THE BOY WONDER FAILS TO SEE A SPOT OF OIL-SLICK ON THE DECK, AND..
BATMAN! I SLIPPED-- I CAN'T STOP!
ROBIN! GO LIMP! GO LIMP, ROBIN... AND RIDE WITH THE FALL! IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE!

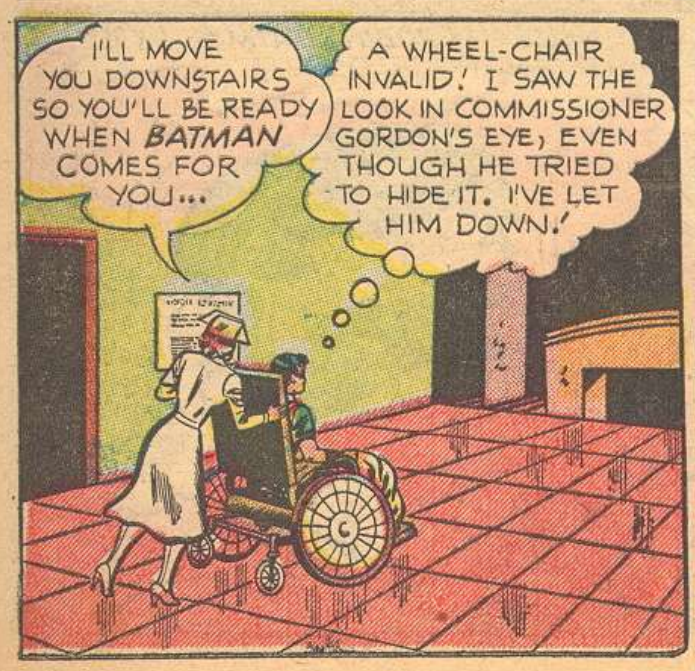
AND THEN...
THE POOR KID! THE POOR KID!

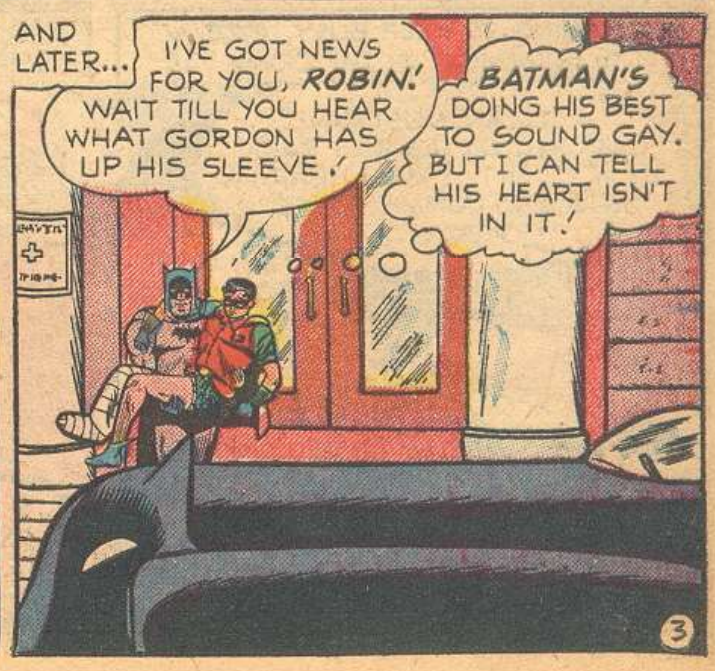
MINUTES LATER...
ANY OTHER KID WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THAT FALL! ROBIN'S LONG TRAINING AND SPLENDID CONDITION SAVED HIM. BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S BROKEN HIS LEG...
OOOOH! MY...MY LEG...

LATER, AT THE HOSPITAL...
THERE YOU GO! WHEN THAT LEG HEALS, IT'LL BE STRONGER THAN EVER!
SEE, COMMISSIONER? ROBIN'S GETTING BETTER ALREADY!

COME, BATMAN--I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.
SO LONG FOR NOW, ROBIN! I'LL BE BACK A LITTLE LATER TO PICK YOU UP AND TAKE YOU HOME.

A FINE MESS I'VE MADE OF THINGS! SIX WEEKS IN A CAST--SIX MORE WEEKS BEFORE THE LEG IS STRONG! AND AT A TIME WHEN COMMISSIONER GORDON NEEDS BATMAN AND ME THE MOST!


I'LL MOVE YOU DOWNSTAIRS SO YOU'LL BE READY WHEN BATMAN COMES FOR YOU...
A WHEEL-CHAIR INVALID! I SAW THE LOOK IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S EYE, EVEN THOUGH HE TRIED TO HIDE IT. I'VE LET HIM DOWN!


AND LATER...
I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, ROBIN! WAIT TILL YOU HEAR WHAT GORDON HAS UP HIS SLEEVE!
BATMAN'S DOING HIS BEST TO SOUND GAY. BUT I CAN TELL HIS HEART ISN'T IN IT!

THEN, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN REVERT BACK TO THE ROLES OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
A CERTAIN NORTHERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN AN URGENT REQUEST FOR A COUNTERPART OF BATMAN! I'M GOING TO TRAIN ONE FROM AMONG THEIR NATURALIZED CITIZENS RESIDING HERE!

THE PLAN MUST BE KEPT SECRET, THOUGH -- FROM CRIMINAL AGENTS OF THE COUNTRY WHO ARE HERE. SO THIS NEW LAWMAN IS GOING TO APPEAR AS BATMAN'S PARTNER -- TO AVOID SUSPICION.
BATMAN'S PARTNER! THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT I WAS!

IT'LL WORK OUT SWELL! WITH YOU LAID UP, IT WOULD SEEM A NATURAL THING FOR ME TO TAKE ON SOMEONE ELSE TEMPORARILY.
IT'S TOO SWELL! I WISH I COULD BELIEVE HIM, BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING I'M BEING EASED OUT OF THE PICTURE...

AND NEXT DAY, WHILE DICK RECUPERATES IN GOTHAM PARK...
DID YOU SEE THE PAPER? BATMAN'S GETTING HIMSELF A PARTNER TO HELP HIM WHILE ROBIN'S LAID UP!
YEAH! IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S A SMART MOVE! A MAN IS BETTER THAN A KID ANY DAY! TWO BATMEN -- THAT'S WHAT WE NEED AROUND HERE!

THAT EVENING, TO KEEP BUSY, ROBIN CHECKS EQUIPMENT IN THE CRIME LAB AS...
BATMAN MUST HAVE SWITCHED ON HIS BELT RADIO BY ACCIDENT. I CAN HEAR HIM SPEAKING TO COMMISSIONER GORDON...
BUT WHAT ABOUT ROBIN, COMMISSIONER?

WE DON'T NEED ANY ROBIN, BATMAN! I'VE GOT THINGS ALL FIGURED OUT!
JUST AS I FEARED! (SOB!) THEY'RE PLANNING TO DROP ME!

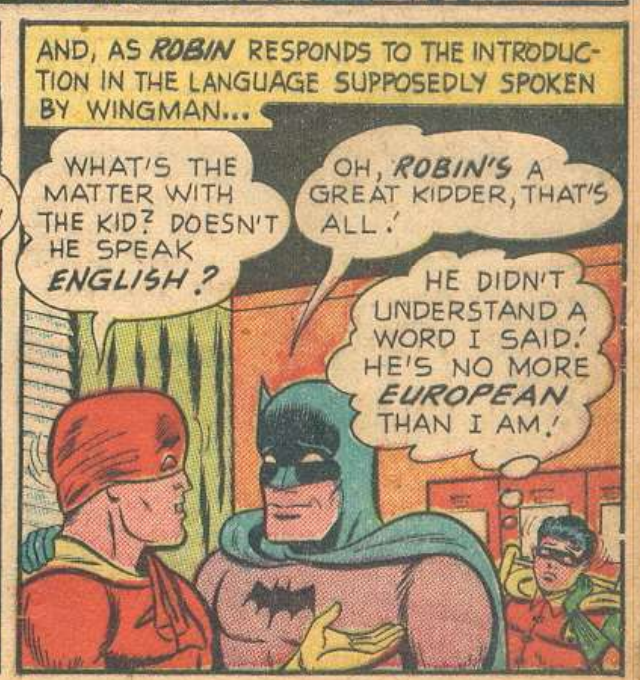
NEXT DAY...
BEING ABLE TO SELECT A NEW LAWMAN FROM THE HANDFUL OF NATURALIZED CITIZENS IN GOTHAM CITY IS A PROBLEM. OF COURSE, I'M SCREENING ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE SO AS TO KEEP OUR INTENT A SECRET.
BATMAN SOUNDS CONVINCING. COULD I HAVE BEEN WRONG ABOUT ALL THIS? AFTER ALL, HE'S ONLY INTERVIEWING A FEW MEN...

...IF HE AND GORDON WERE ATTEMPTING TO REPLACE ME WITH AN ADULT, THEY WOULD COMB THE WHOLE COUNTRY FOR THE BEST MAN. HMMM-- I'LL KNOW MORE WHEN THEY DECIDE WHO GETS THE JOB.

AND, IN ROBIN'S SPARE MOMENTS...
IN A SHORT WHILE, I'LL BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO MY TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE IN HIS NATIVE LANGUAGE -- IF BATMAN AND GORDON HAVE BEEN TELLING ME THE TRUTH.

NEXT DAY...
WHAT A BREAK! JUST WHEN MY TASK SEEMED HOPELESS, I FOUND A YOUNG MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE HE'LL FILL THE BILL! HE'S AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS -- I WANT YOU TO MEET HIM.'

SOON...
HERE HE IS! WE CALL HIM WINGMAN! AND HE'S READY FOR ADVANCED TRAINING.'
WINGMAN, EH? I'LL ASK HIM A QUESTION IN HIS OWN TONGUE!

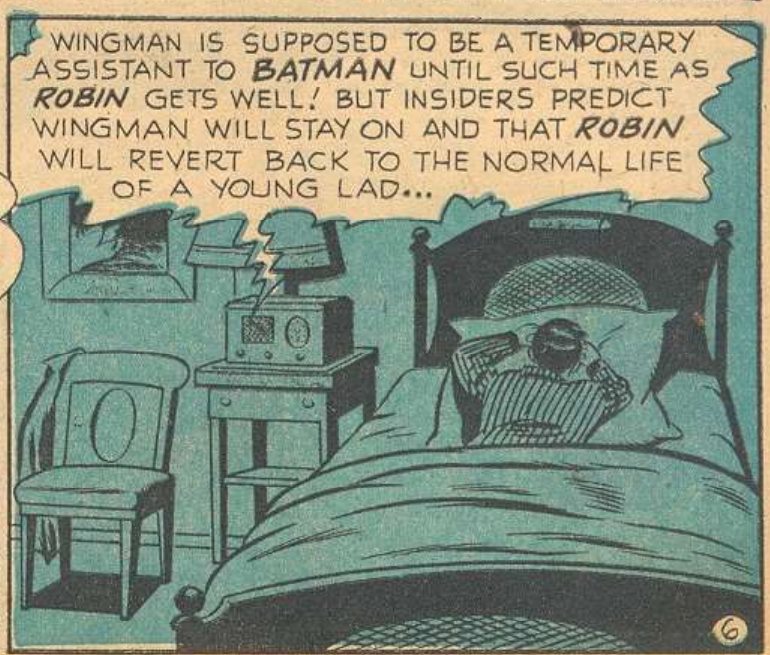

AND, AS ROBIN RESPONDS TO THE INTRODUCTION IN THE LANGUAGE SUPPOSEDLY SPOKEN BY WINGMAN...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE KID? DOESN'T HE SPEAK ENGLISH?
OH, ROBIN'S A GREAT KIDDER, THAT'S ALL.'
HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD I SAID.' HE'S NO MORE EUROPEAN THAN I AM.'

THAT NIGHT...
WE DON'T NEED ANY ROBIN!
THAT WINGMAN IS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO GOTHAM CITY! HE AND BATMAN SURE HIT IT OFF SWELL!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? AS A MAN, HE HAS MORE IN COMMON WITH BATMAN-- THEY CAN DO THINGS TOGETHER BATMAN AND ROBIN COULD NEVER DO!

HERE HE IS! WE CALL HIM WINGMAN!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE KID?
A MAN IS BETTER THAN A KID ANY DAY!

AND AS DICK SUDDENLY AWAKES...
NO FUN TO SLEEP AND HAVE THOSE NIGHT-MARES! I'LL TURN ON THE RADIO TO CALM MY NERVES...

SPECULATION IS RIFE IN GOTHAM CITY TONIGHT AS TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ROBIN THE BOY WONDER...
STEVE BELTER, THE GOSSIP COLUMNIST. AND HE'S TALKING ABOUT ME!


WINGMAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TEMPORARY ASSISTANT TO BATMAN UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ROBIN GETS WELL! BUT INSIDERS PREDICT WINGMAN WILL STAY ON AND THAT ROBIN WILL REVERT BACK TO THE NORMAL LIFE OF A YOUNG LAD...

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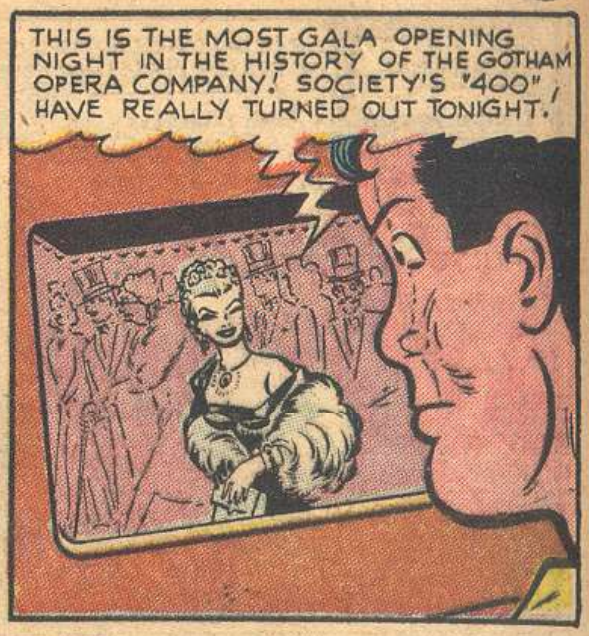
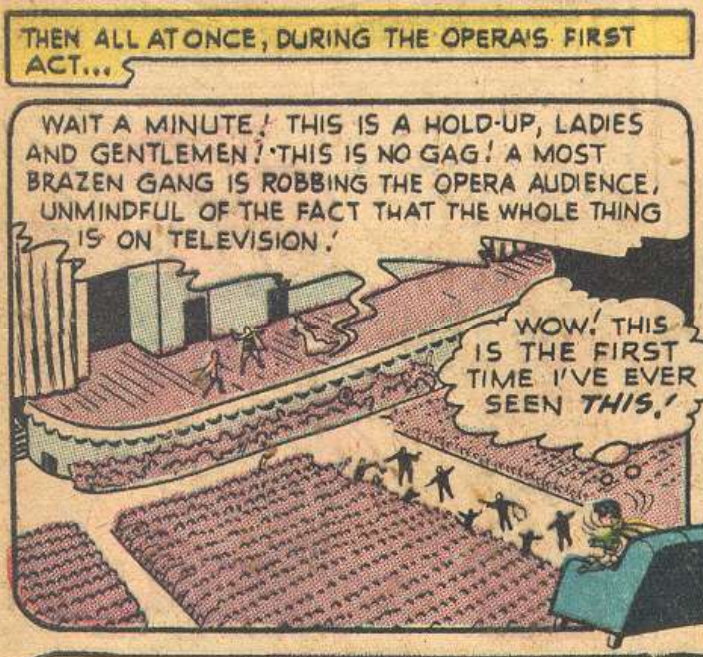
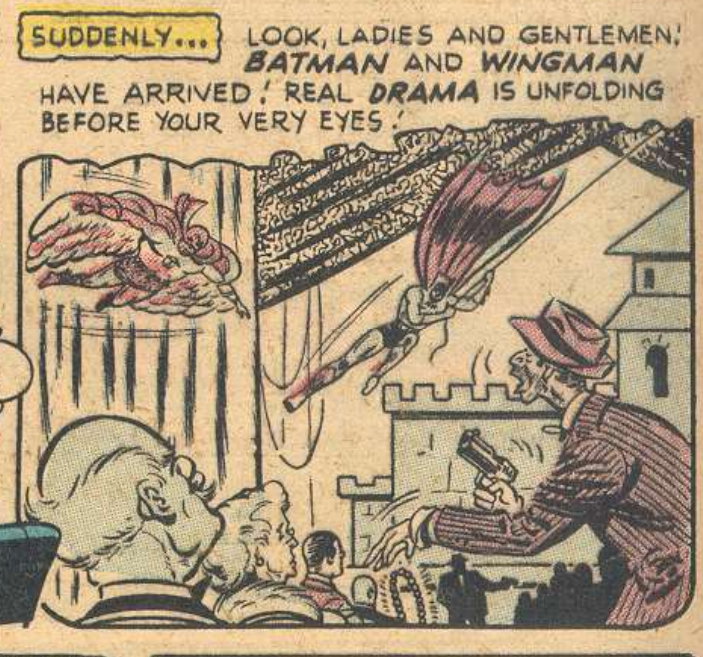
AND NEXT EVENING, AS ROBIN AWAITS WORD OF WINGMAN'S FIRST SORTIE AGAINST CRIME...
MIGHT AS WELL SEE SOME TELEVISION WHILE I WAIT. THE OPERA'S ON TONIGHT...

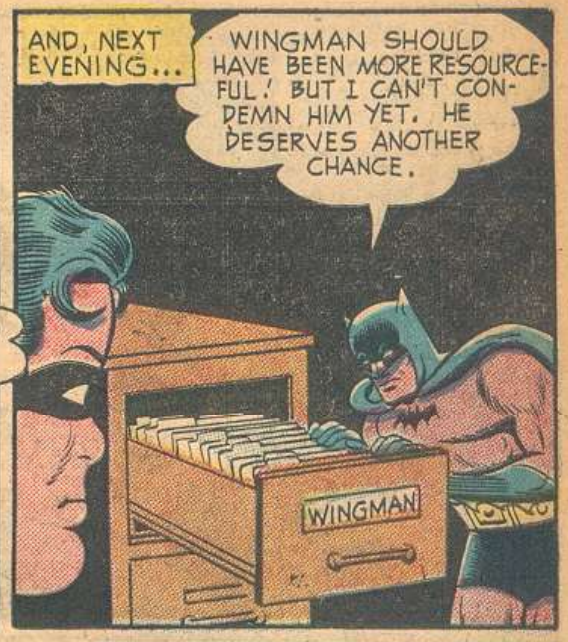

THIS IS THE MOST GALA OPENING NIGHT IN THE HISTORY OF THE GOTHAM OPERA COMPANY! SOCIETY'S "400" HAVE REALLY TURNED OUT TONIGHT.!


THEN ALL AT ONCE, DURING THE OPERA'S FIRST ACT...
WAIT A MINUTE! THIS IS A HOLD-UP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THIS IS NO GAG! A MOST BRAZEN GANG IS ROBBING THE OPERA AUDIENCE, UNMINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT THE WHOLE THING IS ON TELEVISION.!
WOW! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN THIS.!


SUDDENLY...
LOOK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! BATMAN AND WINGMAN HAVE ARRIVED! REAL DRAMA IS UNFOLDING BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!

WHY DOESN'T WINGMAN REACH BACK AND PULL THAT CURTAIN ?!! HE'D CATCH THOSE CROOKS LIKE FISH IN A NET.!

IN THE NEXT MOMENT...
YOU SAW IT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! YOU SAW BATMAN RELEASE THE CURTAIN AND TRAP THE CROOKS! WHAT A SURPRISE FOR YOU TELEVISION VIEWERS! YOU'RE SEEING HISTORY IN THE MAKING!
GOOD OLD BATMAN! HE DID IT, WHEN WINGMAN FAILED!

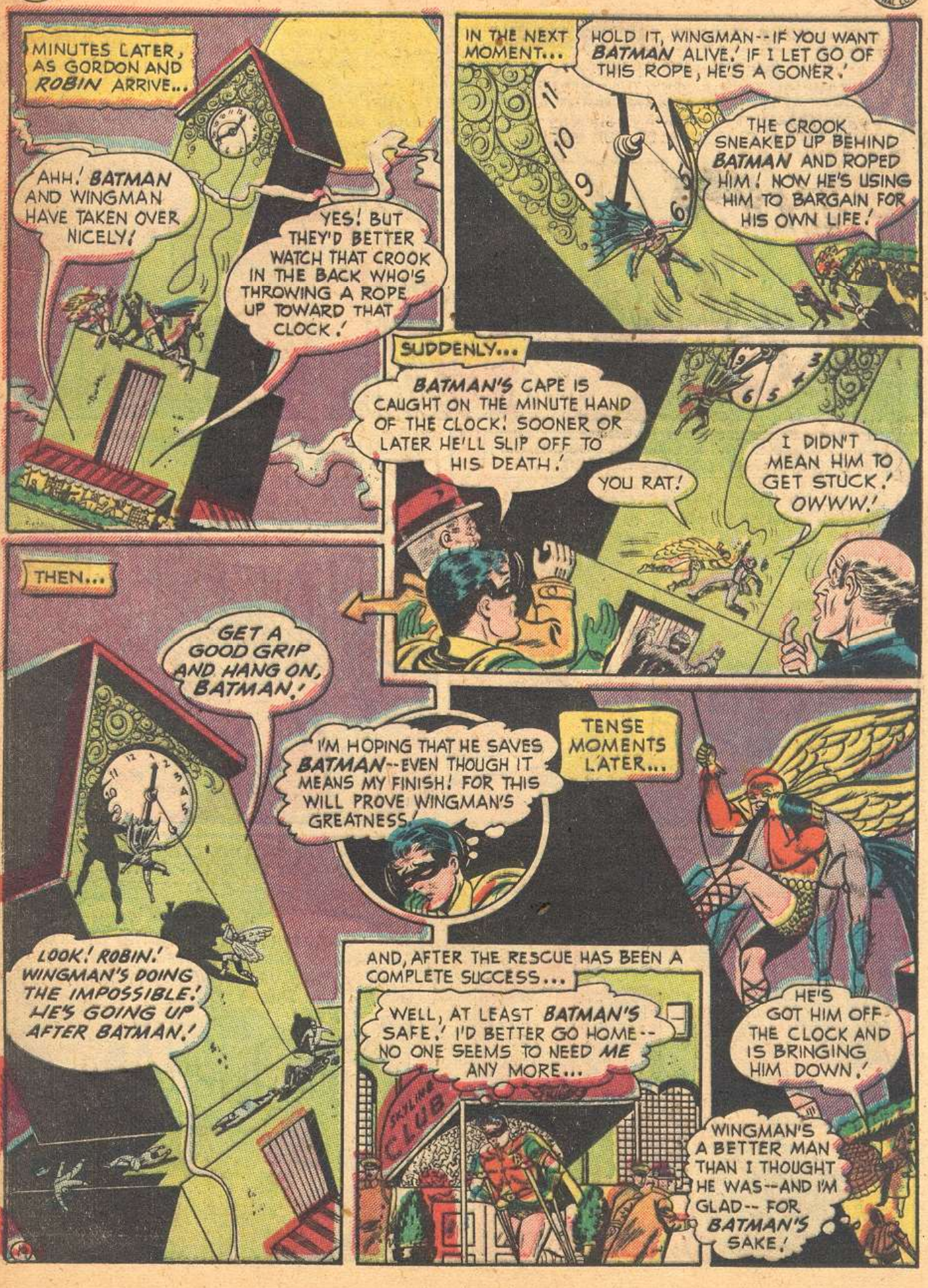

AND, NEXT EVENING...
WINGMAN SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE RESOURCEFUL! BUT I CAN'T CONDEMN HIM YET. HE DESERVES ANOTHER CHANCE.
WINGMAN

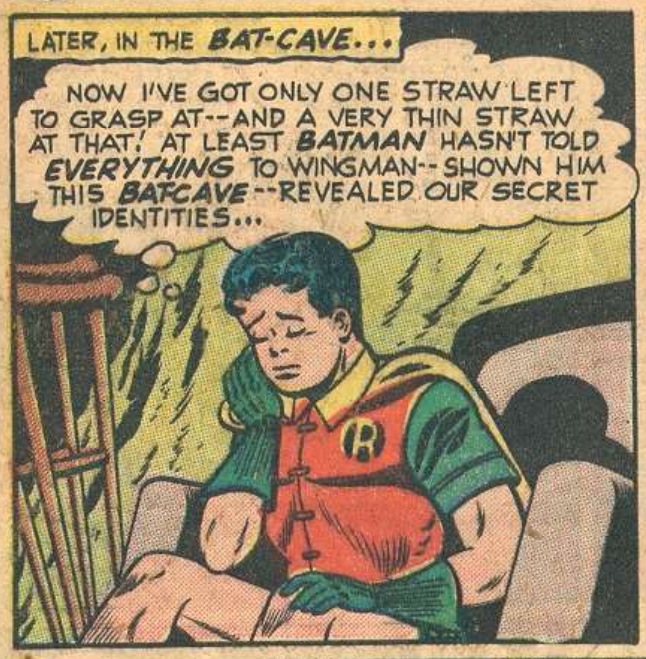
SUDDENLY, THE ELECTRIC EYE ALARM SOUNDS OFF, SIGNIFYING THE BAT-SIGNAL OUTSIDE...
HERE WE GO AGAIN--THE BAT-SIGNAL! WINGMAN IS TO MEET ME AT HEADQUARTERS WHEN HE SPOTS IT! C'MON, ROBIN -- YOU CAN STAY WITH GORDON!
BUTLER
WAYNE MANSION
BAT CAVE
BAT SIGNAL
HALL OF TROPHIES

SOON AFTER...
CROOKS ARE BURGLING THE SKYLINE CLUB--GET OVER THERE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!
RIGHT!

MOMENTS LATER...
COME ON, ROBIN -- YOU CAN GO ALONG WITH ME IN A POLICE CAR...

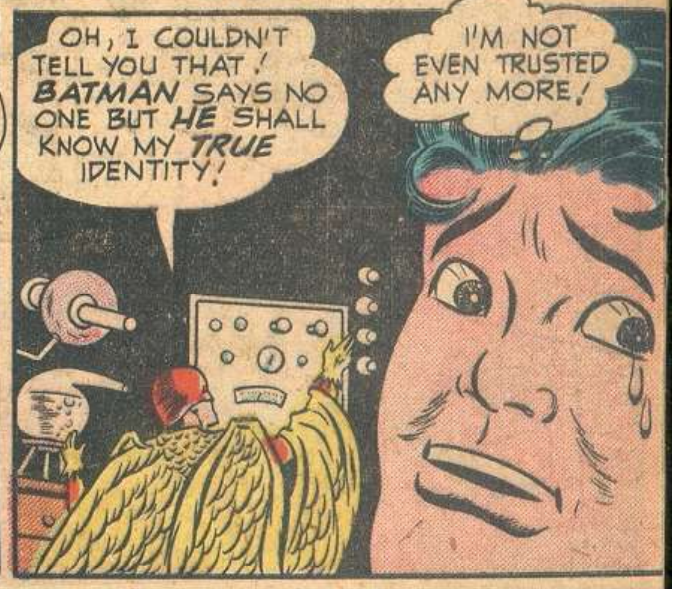
AND, AT THE SKYLINE CLUB, ATOP A TALL GOTHAM CITY SKYSCRAPER...
CAREFUL, BATMAN! THEY'RE ARMED! THEY'VE GONE UP TO THE TOWER!
THEN THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING, RIGHT NOW!


MINUTES LATER, AS GORDON AND ROBIN ARRIVE...
AHH! BATMAN AND WINGMAN HAVE TAKEN OVER NICELY!
YES! BUT THEY'D BETTER WATCH THAT CROOK IN THE BACK WHO'S THROWING A ROPE UP TOWARD THAT CLOCK!
IN THE NEXT MOMENT...
HOLD IT, WINGMAN--IF YOU WANT BATMAN ALIVE! IF I LET GO OF THIS ROPE, HE'S A GONER!
THE CROOK SNEAKED UP BEHIND BATMAN AND ROPED HIM! NOW HE'S USING HIM TO BARGAIN FOR HIS OWN LIFE!
SUDDENLY...
BATMAN'S CAPE IS CAUGHT ON THE MINUTE HAND OF THE CLOCK! SOONER OR LATER HE'LL SLIP OFF TO HIS DEATH!
YOU RAT!
I DIDN'T MEAN HIM TO GET STUCK! OWWW!
THEN...
GET A GOOD GRIP AND HANG ON, BATMAN!
I'M HOPING THAT HE SAVES BATMAN--EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS MY FINISH! FOR THIS WILL PROVE WINGMAN'S GREATNESS!
TENSE MOMENTS LATER...
LOOK! ROBIN! WINGMAN'S DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE! HE'S GOING UP AFTER BATMAN!
AND, AFTER THE RESCUE HAS BEEN A COMPLETE SUCCESS...
WELL, AT LEAST BATMAN'S SAFE! I'D BETTER GO HOME--NO ONE SEEMS TO NEED ME ANY MORE...
SKYLINE CLUB
HE'S GOT HIM OFF THE CLOCK AND IS BRINGING HIM DOWN!
WINGMAN'S A BETTER MAN THAN I THOUGHT HE WAS--AND I'M GLAD--FOR BATMAN'S SAKE!


LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE...
NOW I'VE GOT ONLY ONE STRAW LEFT TO GRASP AT--AND A VERY THIN STRAW AT THAT! AT LEAST BATMAN HASN'T TOLD EVERYTHING TO WINGMAN--SHOWN HIM THIS BATCAVE--REVEALED OUR SECRET IDENTITIES...

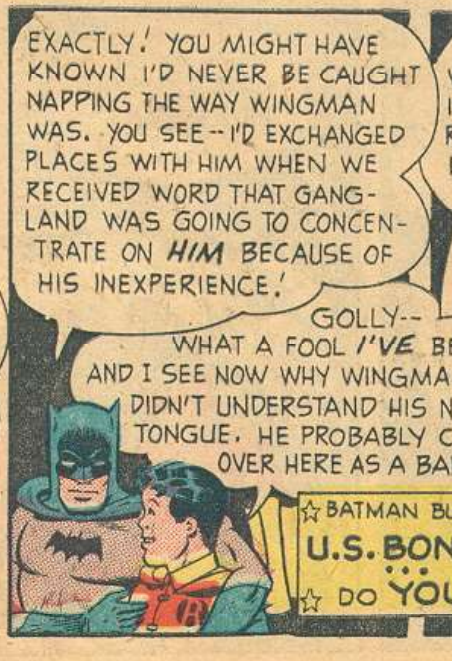
AND THEN, AS IF IN ANSWER TO ROBIN'S THOUGHTS, WINGMAN ENTERS THE BAT-CAVE!
WELL, WELL-- SO THIS IS THE BAT-CAVE! I CERTAINLY HEARD ENOUGH ABOUT IT!
WINGMAN--IN HERE! THIS IS IT--ALL RIGHT! BATMAN HAS REVEALED ALL! IT'S THE END OF ROBIN!

AND YOU'RE DICK GRAYSON! BOY, WAS I SURPRISED WHEN I FOUND OUT WHO BATMAN AND ROBIN REALLY WERE! I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED IN A MILLION YEARS!
ALL RIGHT--YOU KNOW MY SECRETS! NOW--WHO ARE YOU?

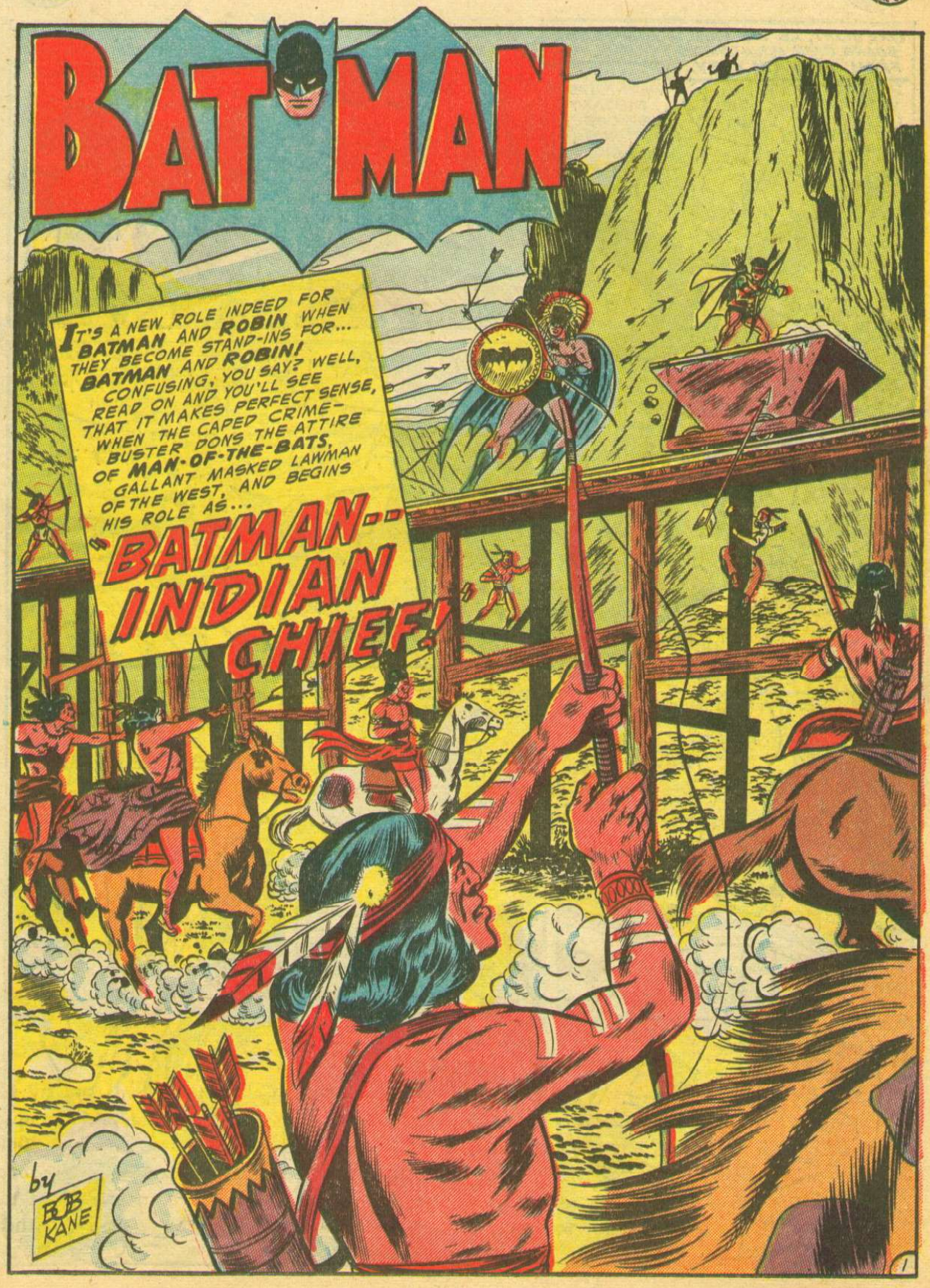

OH, I COULDN'T TELL YOU THAT! BATMAN SAYS NO ONE BUT HE SHALL KNOW MY TRUE IDENTITY!
I'M NOT EVEN TRUSTED ANY MORE!

IF BATMAN'S STORY WERE TRUE, ABOUT TRAINING A BATMAN FOR A FOREIGN COUNTRY, THERE'D BE NO NEED OF REVEALING ALL THE BATMAN SECRETS TO HIM! I'LL NEVER FORGIVE BATMAN FOR NOT KEEPING FAITH WITH ME...

HEY, KID! WHERE YOU HURRYING TO?
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE--NOW?



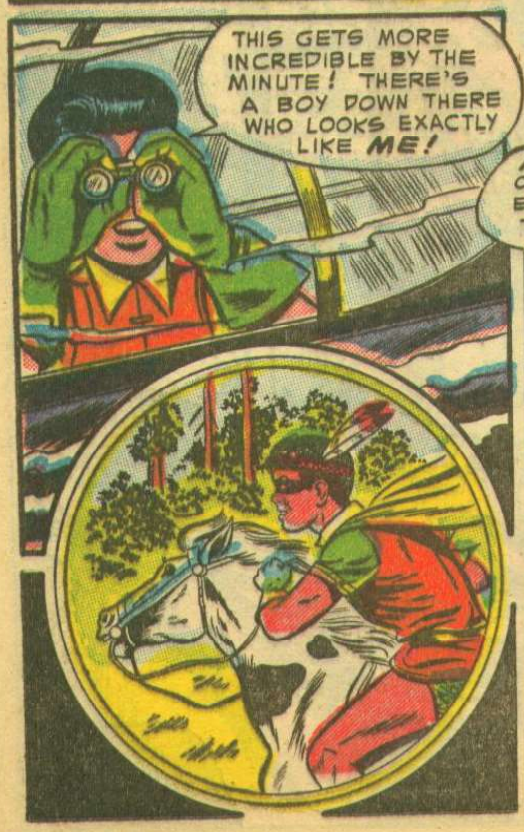
☆ BATMAN BUYS ☆ U.S. BONDS ... ☆ DO YOU? ☆


BATMAN
IT'S A NEW ROLE INDEED FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN WHEN THEY BECOME STAND-INS FOR... BATMAN AND ROBIN! CONFUSING, YOU SAY? WELL, READ ON AND YOU'LL SEE THAT IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE, WHEN THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER DONS THE ATTIRE OF MAN-OF-THE-BATS, GALLANT MASKED LAWMAN OF THE WEST, AND BEGINS HIS ROLE AS...
"BATMAN-- INDIAN CHIEF!"
by BOB KANE

ONE NIGHT, AS THE FAMED BAT-PLANE SOARS OVER MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN, FAR FROM GOTHAM CITY...
IN ABOUT TEN HOURS, WE'LL BE BACK HOME! I CAN'T SAY I WON'T BE GLAD!
SAME HERE! THESE DISTANT MISSIONS MAKE ME HOMESICK!

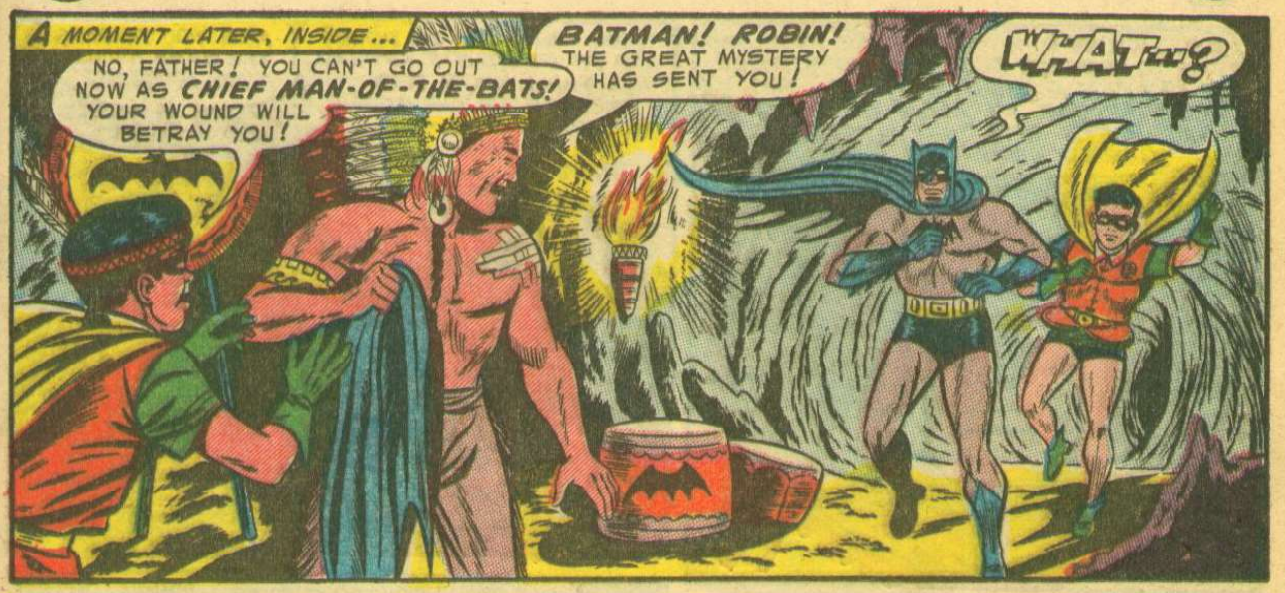
INSIDE ARE BATMAN AND ROBIN WITH THEIR MASKS FLUNG BACK, REVEALING THE FACES OF BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...
GREAT GUNS! AM I SEEING THINGS? LOOK OVER THERE!

A BAT-SIGNAL... IN SMOKE! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
WHAT ELSE CAN IT BE, EXCEPT SOMEONE SUMMONING US! BUT WHO?... AND WHY? TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THE BINOCULARS!


THIS GETS MORE INCREDIBLE BY THE MINUTE! THERE'S A BOY DOWN THERE WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE ME!

STUNNED BY THESE SURPRISING EVENTS, THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS HURRIEDLY LAND THE BAT-PLANE IN A SHELTERED CLEARING, AND...
A BATSIGNAL IN THE FORM OF SMOKE-- A BOY WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE YOU, ROBIN... THIS CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION! COME ON!

AND DEEP IN THE WOODS, STILL ANOTHER SURPRISE... A CANOE BEARING A BAT-SYMBOL, AND A CAVERN NOT UNLIKE THEIR OWN BAT-CAVE!
BUT WHAT CAN THIS MEAN?
LISTEN... VOICES INSIDE THE CAVE! LET'S HAVE A LOOK!


A MOMENT LATER, INSIDE...
NO, FATHER! YOU CAN'T GO OUT NOW AS CHIEF MAN-OF-THE-BATS! YOUR WOUND WILL BETRAY YOU!
BATMAN! ROBIN! THE GREAT MYSTERY HAS SENT YOU!
WHAT?!!

CHIEF MAN-OF-THE-BATS? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
GREAT EAGLE IS MY REAL NAME, O BATMAN--AND THIS IS MY SON, LITTLE RAVEN! WE ARE OF THE SIOUX TRIBE! LONG HAVE WE PLAYED THE ROLES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!
WHEN DRESSED AS YOU, I AM KNOWN AS CHIEF MAN-OF-THE-BATS! IN OUR WAR AGAINST CRIME, WE OPERATE HERE, FROM OUR OWN VERSION OF A BAT-CAVE!
AMAZING! BUT TELL ME-- HOW WERE YOU WOUNDED?
VILLAINOUS BLACK ELK AND HIS RAIDERS HAVE BEEN TERRORIZING THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PUT AN END TO THEM! BUT JUST TODAY...

"...BLACK ELK LED A RAID ON MY VILLAGE AND BEFORE I COULD SWITCH TO MAN-OF-THE-BATS, HIS SPEAR THRUST FOUND MY SHOULDER!"
HA, GREAT EAGLE! YOU CANNOT STAND BEFORE ME!
LONG HAVE I THOUGHT YOU AND MAN-OF-THE-BATS TO BE THE SAME PERSON! WELL, NOW WE SHALL SEE! IF MAN-OF-THE-BATS APPEARS WITH A WOUNDED SHOULDER, I SHALL THEN KNOW HIS TRUE IDENTITY!

HMM... WE'VE RUN INTO SIMILAR PROBLEMS, TRYING TO PROTECT OUR REAL IDENTITIES! BUT LITTLE RAVEN IS RIGHT... YOU CAN'T APPEAR AS MAN-OF-THE BATS WITH THAT WOUNDED SHOULDER!

THEN WHAT CAN BE DONE? IF HE DOESN'T APPEAR, ALL SHALL KNOW IT IS BECAUSE OF THE SPEAR WOUND... AND ALL SHALL KNOW MY TRUE IDENTITY!
ARE YOU THINKING THE SAME THING I AM, ROBIN?
I'D SAY SO!

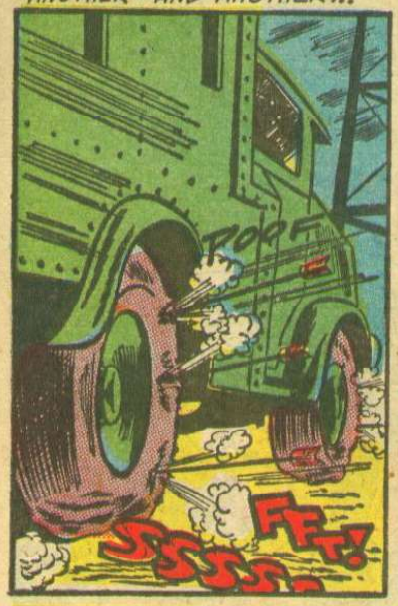
GREAT EAGLE, SUPPOSING ROBIN AND I PLAYED THE ROLES OF CHIEF MAN OF-THE-BATS AND LITTLE RAVEN?
THAT WOULD INDEED SAVE THE SITUATION! HERE... WE MUST GET YOU INTO MY COSTUME -- AND ACQUAINT YOU WITH MY UTILITY BELT!

THE BELT CONTAINS DYES -- WHICH YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR SKINS!

THUS, WITHIN A FEW SHORT MINUTES...
THERE! THE DISGUISE IS COMPLETE! NONE COULD GUESS YOU ARE NOT ME! BUT YOU MUST TAKE ONE PRECAUTION...

YOU MUST PERFORM ONLY IN INDIAN FASHION! IF NOT, PEOPLE WILL GUESS IMMEDIATELY THAT YOU ARE STAND-INS FOR US!
WELL, OUR JOB'S CUT OUT FOR US! LET'S HEAD FOR OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH BLACK ELK'S RAIDERS!

MEANWHILE, AT A SPRAWLING OIL FIELD NOT FAR AWAY...
THE ARMORED CAR WITH THE PAYROLL APPROACHES! QUICKLY--TO YOUR STATIONS!


A BOW TWANGS, THEN ANOTHER--AND ANOTHER...
POOF
SSSSS...
FEET!

SWERVING, THE CAR SMASHES INTO THE BASE OF THE DERRICK...
THEY'LL NEVER CRACK THROUGH OUR ARMOR! LET 'EM HAVE IT!
CRASH!

BUT BEFORE THE GUARDS CAN OPEN FIRE, FLAMING SHAFTS STREAK THROUGH THE GUN SLOTS...
YOW! ARROWS SATURATED WITH KEROSENE! THEY'RE SETTING THE CAR ON FIRE!

RUSHING OUT FRANTICALLY, THE GUARDS ARE QUICKLY SUBDUED...
NOW--THE PAYROLL! MAKE HASTE--BEFORE THE FLAMES CONSUME IT!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, ATTRACTED BY THE BLAZE BELOW, TWO FIGURES SWING FROM ONE OF THE TOWERING DERRICKS...
HERE WE GO OUR FIRST TEST AS INDIANS!
MAN-OF-THE-BATS! SLAY HIM!

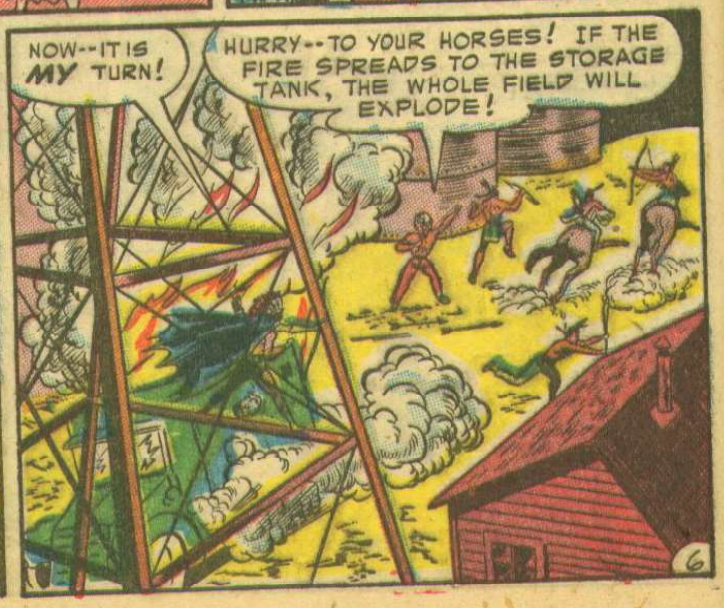
A SPEAR IN HIS BACK WILL SETTLE ALL! THEN I SHALL REVEAL WHAT I'VE ALWAYS SUSPECTED, THAT THEY ARE REALLY GREAT EAGLE AND LITTLE RAVEN!

DIE MAN-OF-THE-BATS... ULLPS!

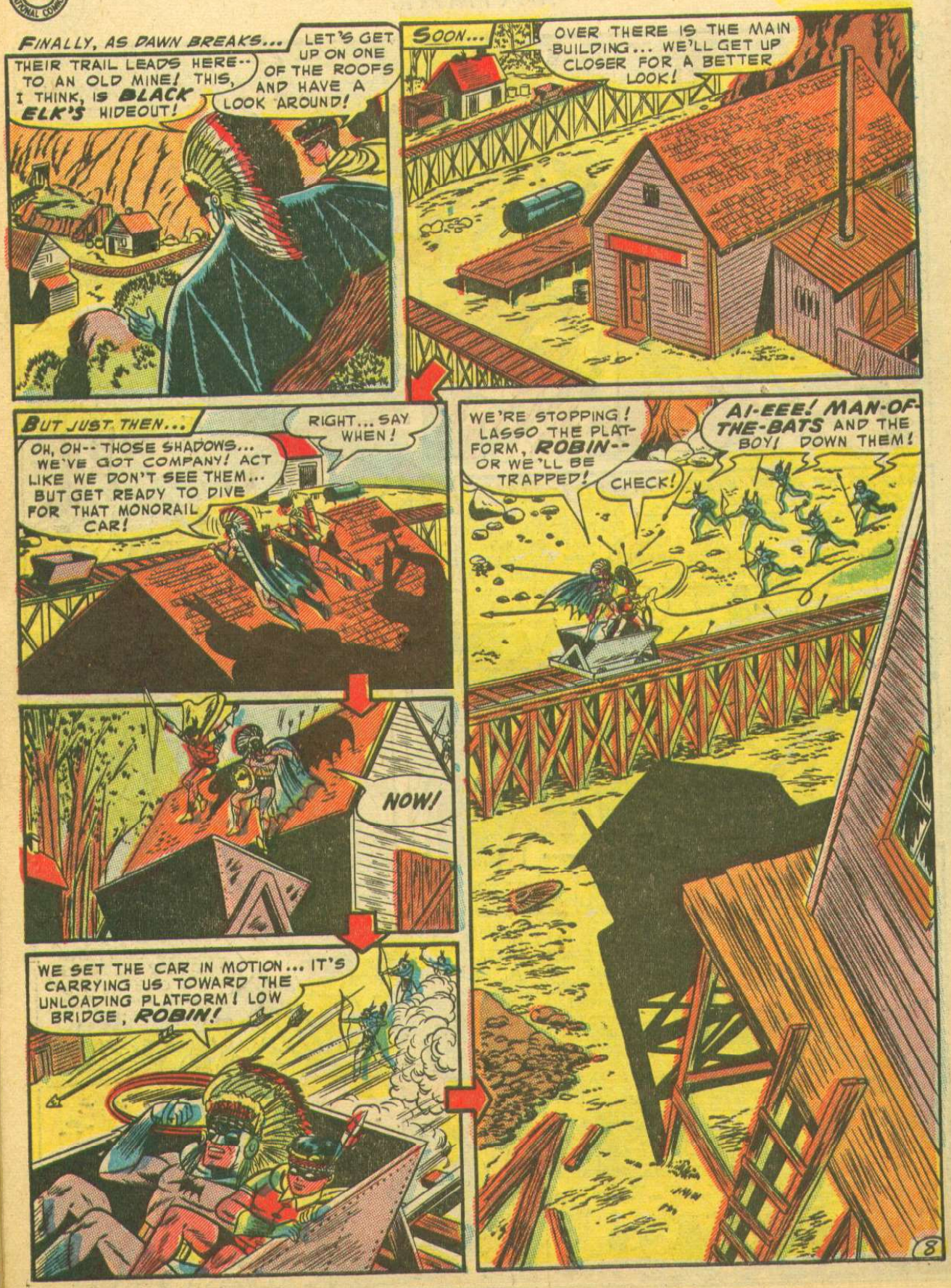
A HUNDRED ARROWS FOR HIM! HURRY!

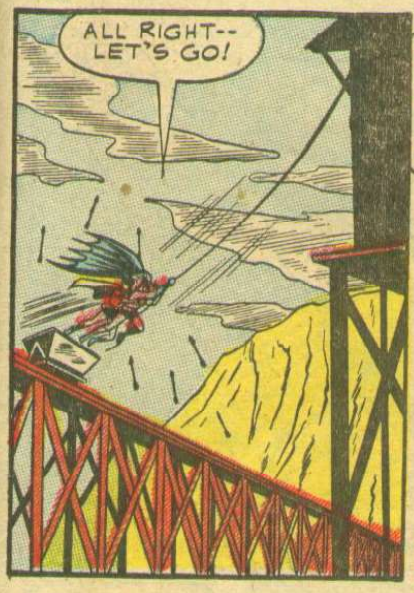
FIRE!

BUT, USING THE SPEAR AS A VAULTING POLE, BATMAN SAILS UPWARD, SO THAT...
FOOLS! YOU MISSED!


NOW--IT IS MY TURN!
HURRY--TO YOUR HORSES! IF THE FIRE SPREADS TO THE STORAGE TANK, THE WHOLE FIELD WILL EXPLODE!

AND AS THE RAIDERS GALLOP OFF...
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY-- BUT PUTTING THAT FIRE OUT IS MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW! IF THE FLAMES EVER REACH THE STORAGE TANKS-- AS BLACK ELK SAID-- EVERYTHING WILL GO UP!
A TWO-MAN BUCKET BRIGADE OUGHT TO TURN THE TRICK!
SHORTLY...
INJUNS--YOU SAVED THE PAYROLL! THANKS!
WE HAVE OTHER WORK NOW! WE ARE GOING AFTER BLACK ELK!
LATER, AS THEY SCAN THE NEARBY TERRAIN...
COME ON... WE'LL GET THE BATPLANE AND FOLLOW THEM!
NO! WE'VE GOT TO HANDLE THIS LIKE INDIANS--REMEMBER! HERE'S THEIR TRAIL-- HEADING SOUTH TOWARD THE RIVER!
AND AT THE RIVER, WHERE, AT FIRST, THE TRAIL SEEMS LOST FOREVER...
SEE BELOW, ON THE RIVER'S BOTTOM? SMALL STONES AND PEBBLES HAVE BEEN OVERTURNED! THAT PATTERN CONTINUES SOUTHWARD!
THE STONES WERE DISTURBED BY HORSES' FEET! EVEN THOUGH THE ACTUAL TRACKS ARE WASHED AWAY-- WE NOW KNOW WHICH DIRECTION BLACK ELK TOOK!
THEY'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE RIVER SOMETIME... AND WHEN THEY DO, WE'LL BE ABLE TO PICK UP THEIR TRAIL AGAIN!
BUT SOME MILES FURTHER ON, THE TRACKS EMERGE FROM THE RIVER ONLY TO END ABRUPTLY, AT THE EDGE OF A VAST, STONY FLATNESS...
THEY HEADED ACROSS THE LAVA FLATS! HORSES DON'T LEAVE PRINTS IN HARD STONE! WE'RE BEATEN!
NO! NOT YET! AGAIN WE'VE GOT TO PLAY INDIAN! GREAT EAGLE WOULD FIND THE TRAIL... SO WILL WE!
INDIAN PONIES DON'T WEAR HORSESHOES... BUT SEE THESE SMALL SCRAPINGS OF BONY SUBSTANCE? THAT WAS LEFT BY THE FEET OF THEIR HORSES!
THEN WE CAN STILL FOLLOW THEM! GREAT EAGLE SHOULD BE PROUD OF US FOR FIGURING THIS ONE OUT!


FINALLY, AS DAWN BREAKS...
THEIR TRAIL LEADS HERE-- TO AN OLD MINE! THIS, I THINK, IS BLACK ELK'S HIDEOUT!
LET'S GET UP ON ONE OF THE ROOFS AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND!
SOON...
OVER THERE IS THE MAIN BUILDING... WE'LL GET UP CLOSER FOR A BETTER LOOK!
BUT JUST THEN...
OH, OH-- THOSE SHADOWS... WE'VE GOT COMPANY! ACT LIKE WE DON'T SEE THEM... BUT GET READY TO DIVE FOR THAT MONORAIL CAR!
RIGHT... SAY WHEN!
NOW!
WE SET THE CAR IN MOTION... IT'S CARRYING US TOWARD THE UNLOADING PLATFORM! LOW BRIDGE, ROBIN!
WE'RE STOPPING! LASSO THE PLATFORM, ROBIN-- OR WE'LL BE TRAPPED!
CHECK!
AI-EEE! MAN-OF-THE-BATS AND THE BOY! DOWN THEM!


ALL RIGHT-- LET'S GO!

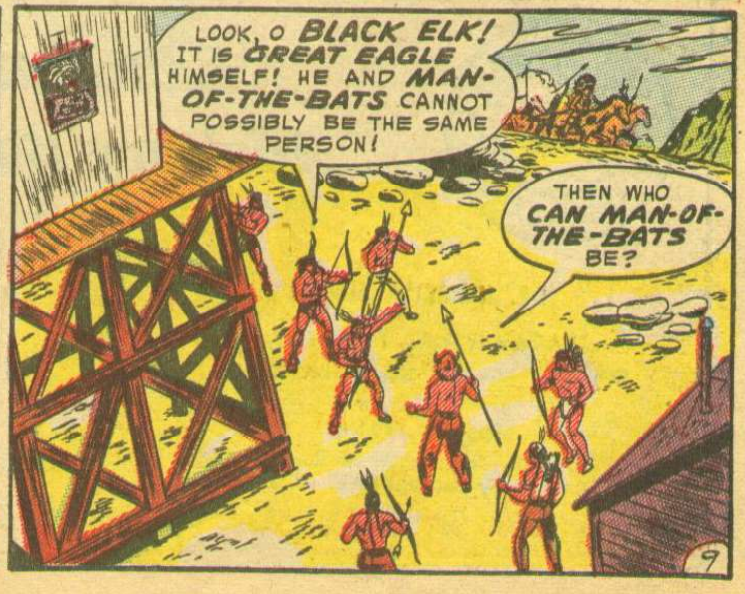
WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW--BUT THEY HAVE THE PLACE SURROUNDED! CAPTURE MEANS THE STRIPPING OFF OF OUR MASKS!
I KNOW! BUT THEY THINK WE'RE REALLY GREAT EAGLE AND LITTLE RAVEN... AND WE HAVE ONE TRICK LEFT!

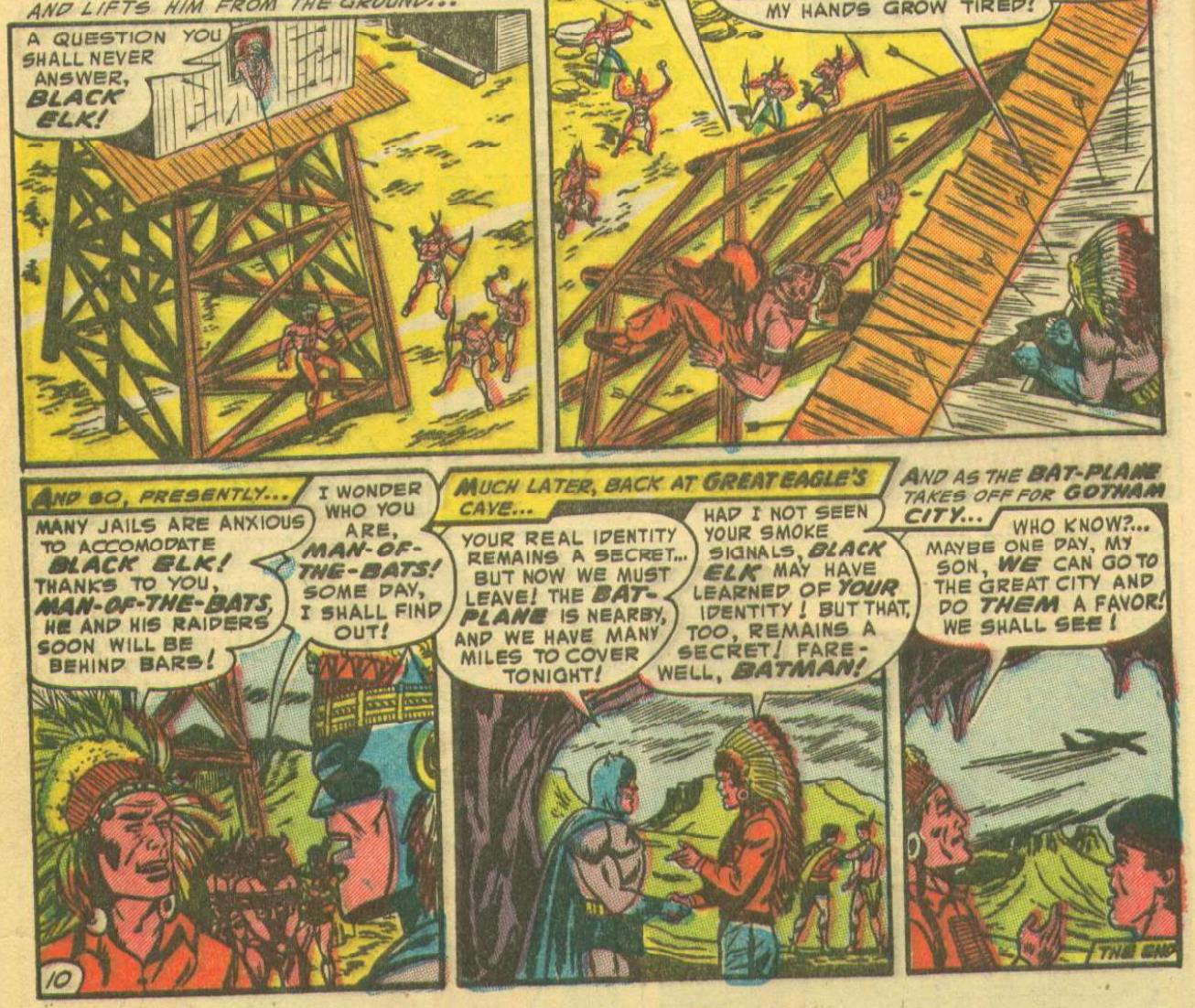
SWIFTLY, BATMAN REMOVES SOME TINY MISSILES FROM THE UTILITY BELT, AND...
SMOKE PELLETS! THAT'S OUR OUT!

AS THE PELLETS STRIKE THE FLOOR AND BURST, THICK CLOUDS BILLOW SKYWARD...
NOW, SOMEHOW, WE'VE GOT TO STALL THE RAIDERS! GET YOUR BOW AND ARROWS READY!

WE'VE GOT YOU, GREAT EAGLE! I KNOW THAT YOU AND MAN-OF-THE-BATS ARE ONE AND THE SAME!

ONLY ONE ARROW LEFT! AFTER THAT, IT'S CURTAINS! WE'VE PROTECTED GREAT EAGLE'S IDENTITY--BUT NOW WE'RE IN DANGER OF REVEALING OUR OWN!
LISTEN! THEY'RE SHOUTING ABOUT SOMETHING!


LOOK, O BLACK ELK! IT IS GREAT EAGLE HIMSELF! HE AND MAN-OF-THE-BATS CANNOT POSSIBLY BE THE SAME PERSON!
THEN WHO CAN MAN-OF-THE-BATS BE?



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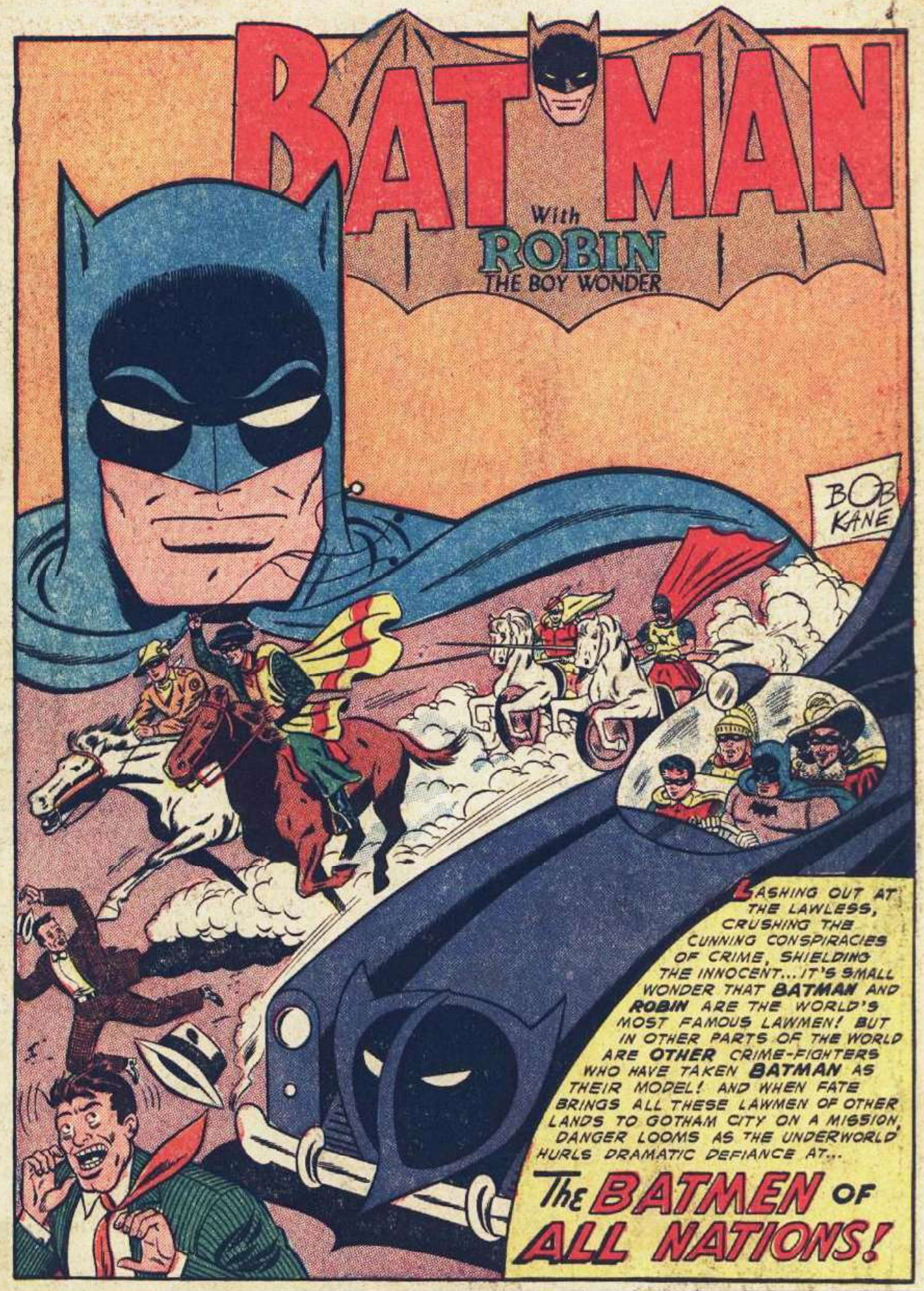

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BATMAN! IT'S A MAGIC NAME, INSPIRING MEN IN MANY LANDS--LIKE THE EARL OF WORDENSHIRE AND HIS SON, IN FARAWAY ENGLAND...
LISTEN--THE RECTORY BELL... THE SIGNAL THAT CRIME HAS STRUCK! QUICK-- WE MUST BECOME THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE TO STOP IT!
JUST AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, OUR MODELS, ANSWER THEIR BAT-SIGNAL!
MINUTES LATER, AS ENGLISH ROBBERS ATTEMPT A GETAWAY...
THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE, ON THEIR MOTOR-CYCLE "HORSES"! WE'RE CAUGHT COLD-- WE SURRENDER!
WE GOT THEM--BUT BATMAN WOULD HAVE CAUGHT THEM FASTER! HOW I'D LIKE TO SEE HIS METHODS IN ACTION, IN AMERICA!
NOR ARE THESE ENGLISH "BATMEN" THE ONLY ONES WHO WISH THAT! IN FRANCE, IT'S THAT SECRET-IDENTITY LAWMAN KNOWN ONLY AS--THE MUSKETEER...
IT'S THAT CURSED MUSKETEER, WHO IMITATES THE AMERICAN BATMAN!
"IMITATES" IS CORRECT! BUT SOMEDAY I SHALL LEARN HOW THE REAL BATMAN OPERATES!
AND IN ROME, THAT DREADED FOE OF CRIME WHO WEARS A COSTUME OF THE ANCIENT PAST AS...
THE LEGIONARY! HE'S COME AGAIN FROM NOWHERE!
VAULTING ON MY LANCE HELPS--BUT I WISH I KNEW HOW BATMAN AND ROBIN DO IT!
EVEN IN DISTANT SOUTH AMERICA, THE GREAT BATMAN HAS FOUND A FOLLOWER...
THE GAUCHO AND HIS BOLO! HE'S AN EXPERT WITH IT!
BUT BATMAN, THEY SAY, IS EVEN MORE EXPERT WITH HIS BAT-BOLO! SOME DAY I SHALL SEE HIM!
IN FARAWAY AUSTRALIA, FINALLY, A "BATMAN" CALLED THE RANGER COMES UP WITH A PLAN...
THAT'S THE LAST OF THE DIGGER MOB YOU'VE ROUNDED UP, RANGER!
BUT BATMAN'S METHODS WOULD HAVE MADE THE JOB EASIER! I'M GOING TO WRITE AND ASK HIM IF HE'LL BRIEF US OTHER LAWMEN IN HIS CRIME-FIGHTING METHODS!
ALWAYS READY TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER LAWMEN, THE ORIGINAL BATMAN ANSWERS PROMPTLY...
BATMAN INVITED ALL THESE OTHER LAWMEN TO COME HERE TO GOTHAM CITY AND LEARN HIS METHODS!
WOW! WITH THAT BUNCH OF WORLD LAWMEN HERE, CRIME WILL BE SCARED OUT!
BATMEN OF ALL NATIONS TO GATHER HERE
YET NO ONE DREAMS THAT THIS GATHERING OF "BATMEN" WILL CAUSE UNPRECEDENTED CRIME...

... FOR IT HAS GIVEN "KNOTS" CARDINE, UNDERWORLD CHIEFTAIN, AN IDEA FOR THE GREATEST SCHEME OF HIS CAREER!

THERE GOES THE LAST "BATMAN" TO ARRIVE! AFTER HIS CAR--QUICK... FORCE IT OFF THE ROAD!

DON'T WORRY, BOSS... WE KNOW WHAT TO DO!

AND LATER, EVEN AS GOTHAM CITY PREPARES TO GREET THE "BATMEN" OF THE WORLD...

NOW THAT OUR PREPARATIONS ARE MADE, WE'LL PUT OUR PLAN INTO OPERATION!

HA, HA-- INVITING THOSE OTHER LAWMEN HERE IS GOING TO BE THE END OF BATMAN!

CRASH!

PRESENTLY, AS GOTHAM CITY GIVES THE "BATMEN" OF OTHER LANDS A TRADITIONAL WELCOME...

VOILA! THERE HE IS-- THE GREAT ORIGINAL BATMAN... OUR MODEL!

WELCOME TO GOTHAM CITY, ALL OF YOU!

AND THAT EVENING, THE FOREIGN LAWMEN GET THEIR FIRST LESSON IN CRIME-BUSTING FROM THE GREATEST CRIME-BUSTER OF THEM ALL...

OUR UTILITY BELTS CONTAIN OUR BELT-RADIOS, GAS PELLETS, SMALL TOOLS, MINIATURE CAMERA, AND MANY OTHER DEVICES--AS WELL AS OUR SILK ROPES!

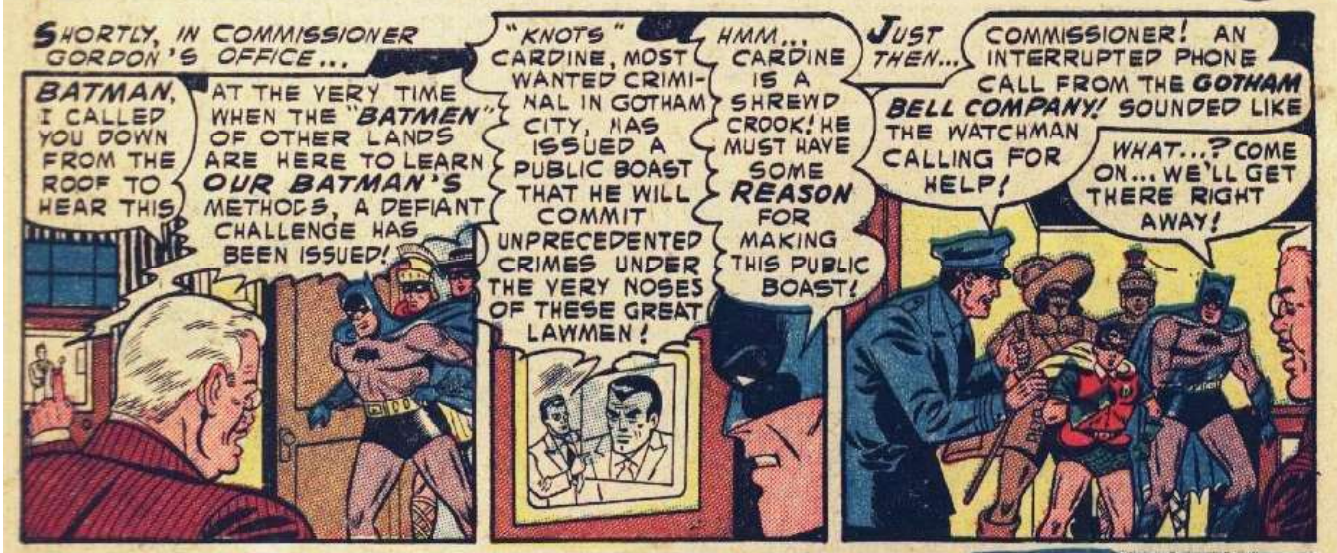
AH... NOW WE SHALL SEE SOME OF THE WORLD-FAMED ACROBATICS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!

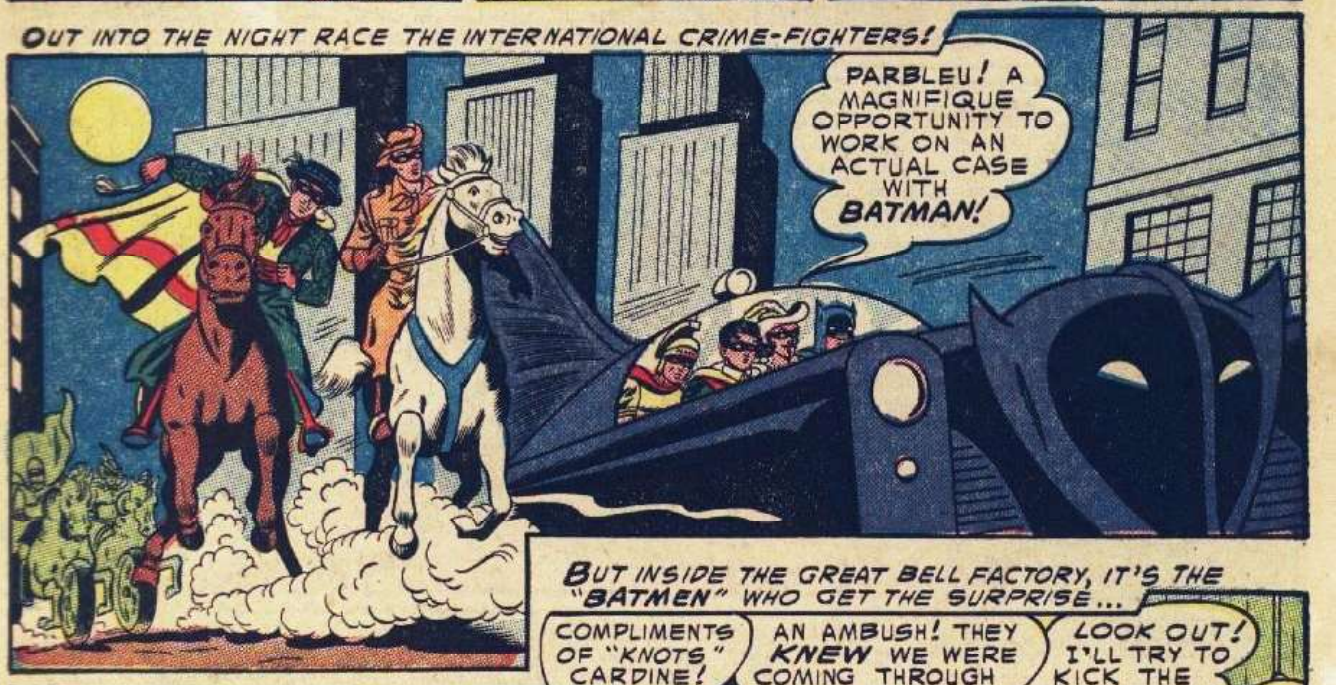
WE HAVE OUR SECRET IDENTITIES JUST AS YOU DO, BUT THIS BAT-SIGNAL CALLS US FROM WHEREVER WE ARE!

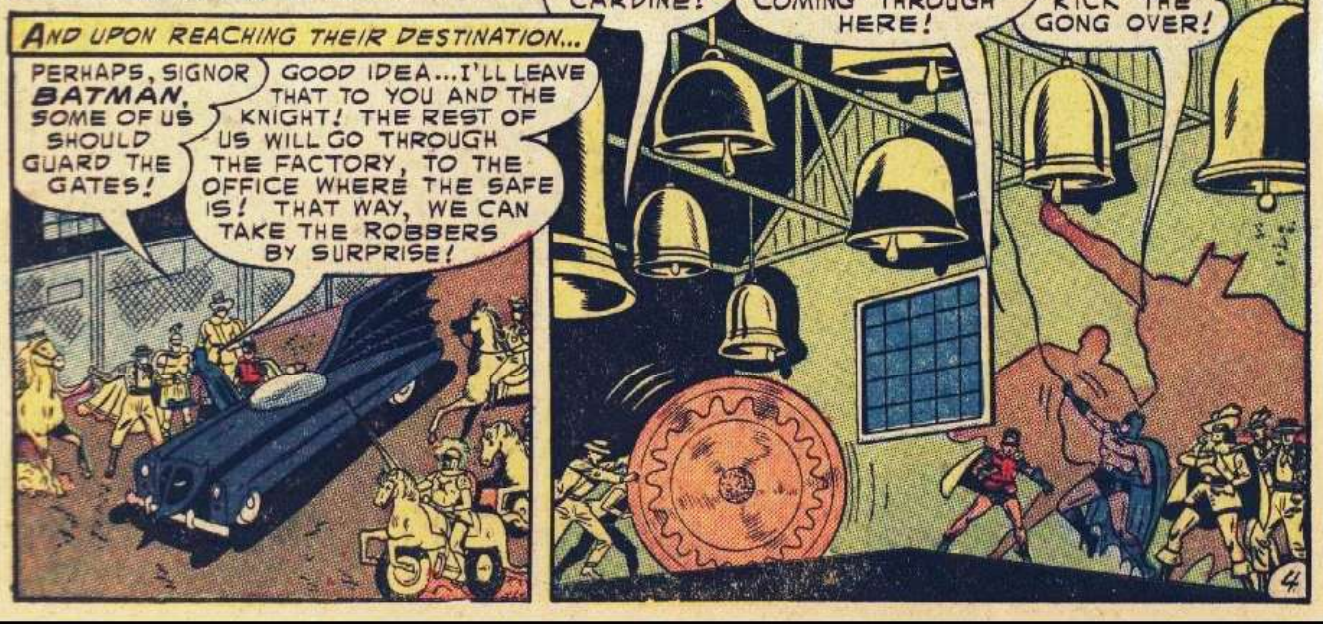
ON THE ROOF, A FEW MINUTES LATER...

OUR ACROBATIC SKILL IS DESIGNED TO HIT CROOKS SWIFTLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY... BUT ONE MUST PRACTICE CONSTANTLY!

WAIT... LOOK, M'SIEU BATMAN! YOUR SIGNAL IS CALLING YOU NOW!







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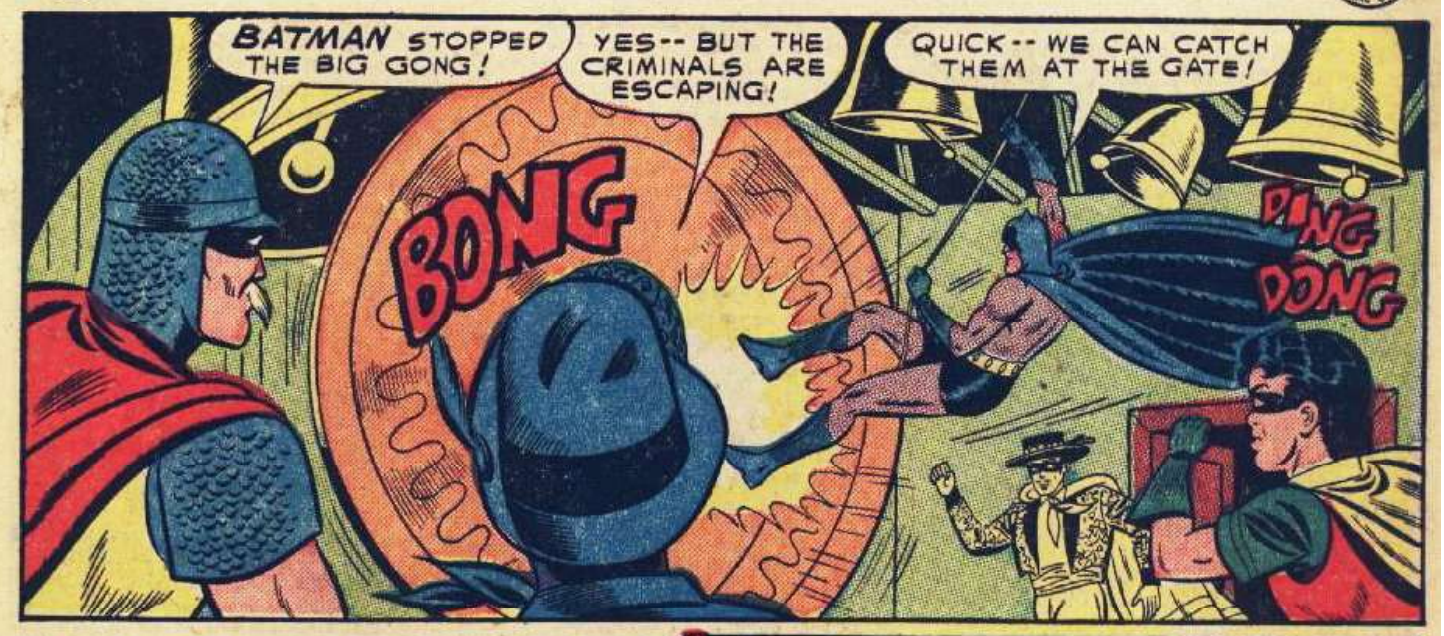
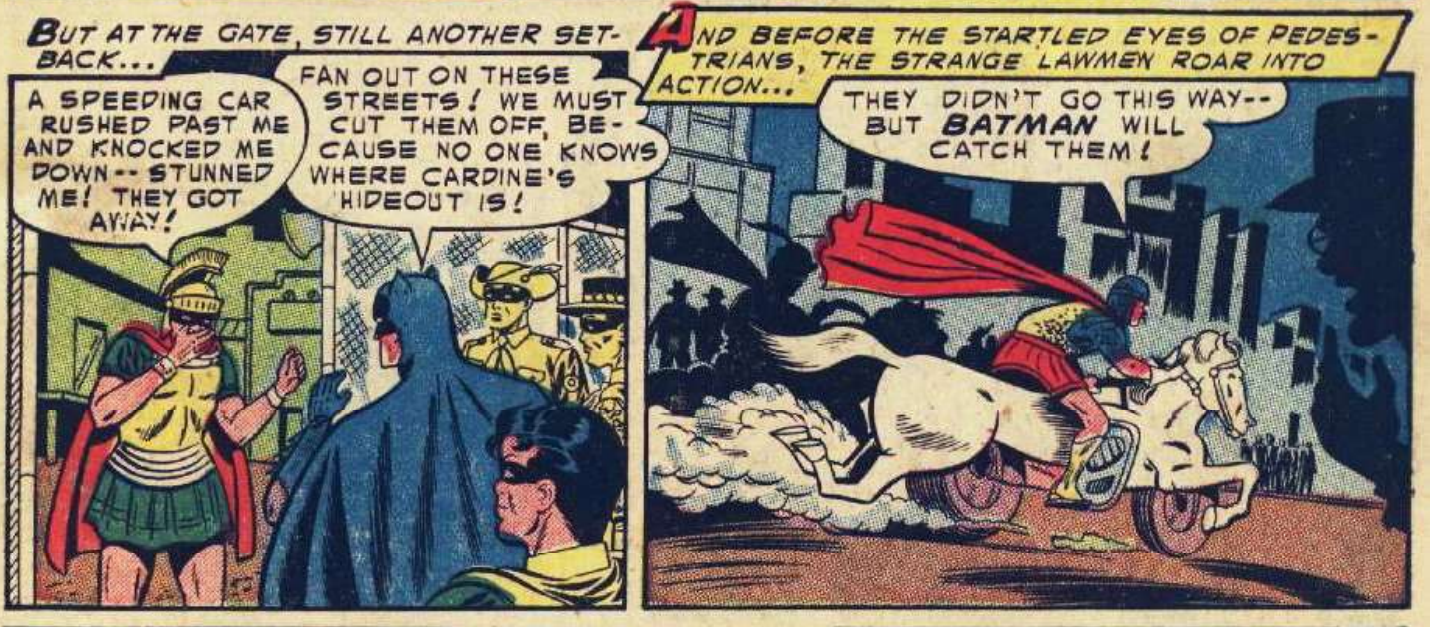
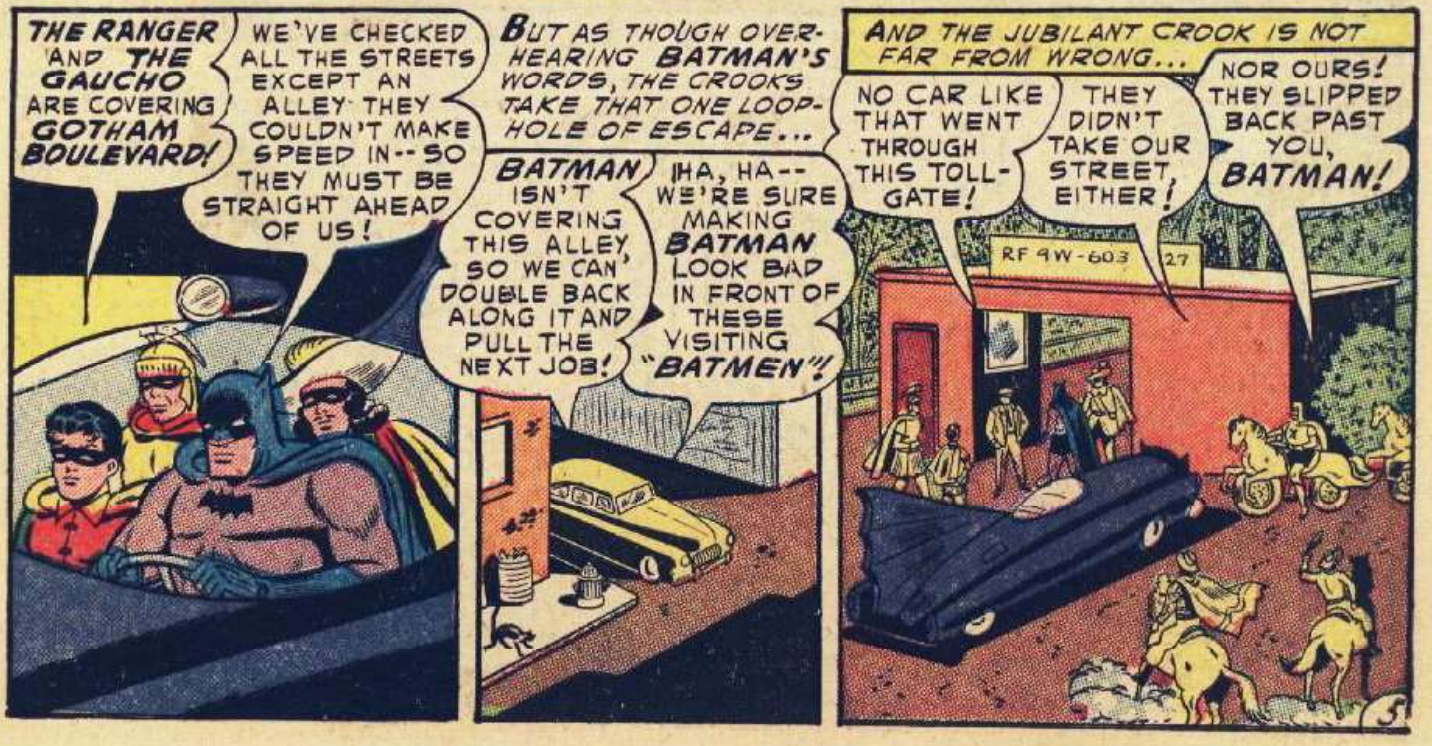
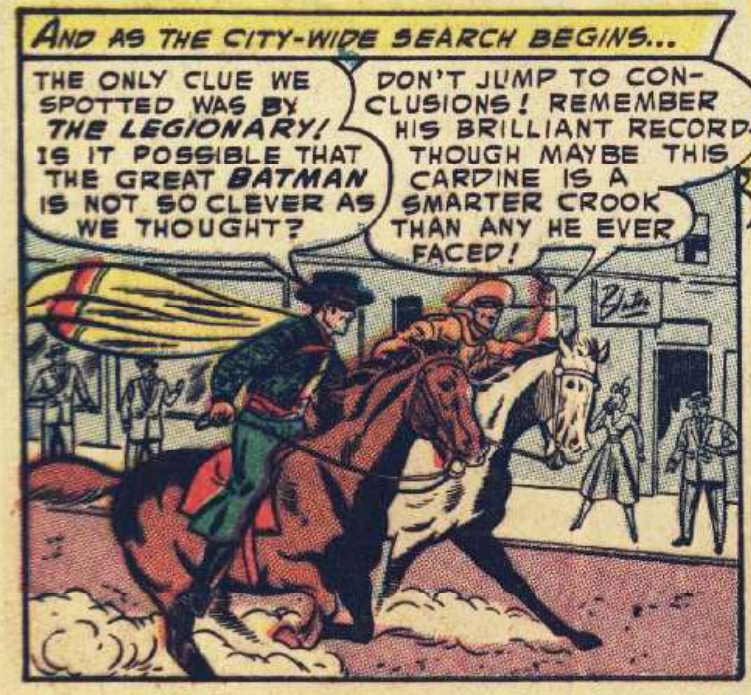

BATMAN STOPPED THE BIG GONG!
YES-- BUT THE CRIMINALS ARE ESCAPING!
QUICK-- WE CAN CATCH THEM AT THE GATE!
BONG
DING DONG


BUT AT THE GATE, STILL ANOTHER SET-BACK...
A SPEEDING CAR RUSHED PAST ME AND KNOCKED ME DOWN-- STUNNED ME! THEY GOT AWAY!
FAN OUT ON THESE STREETS! WE MUST CUT THEM OFF, BECAUSE NO ONE KNOWS WHERE CARDINE'S HIDEOUT IS!
AND BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF PEDESTRIANS, THE STRANGE LAWMEN ROAR INTO ACTION...
THEY DIDN'T GO THIS WAY-- BUT BATMAN WILL CATCH THEM!

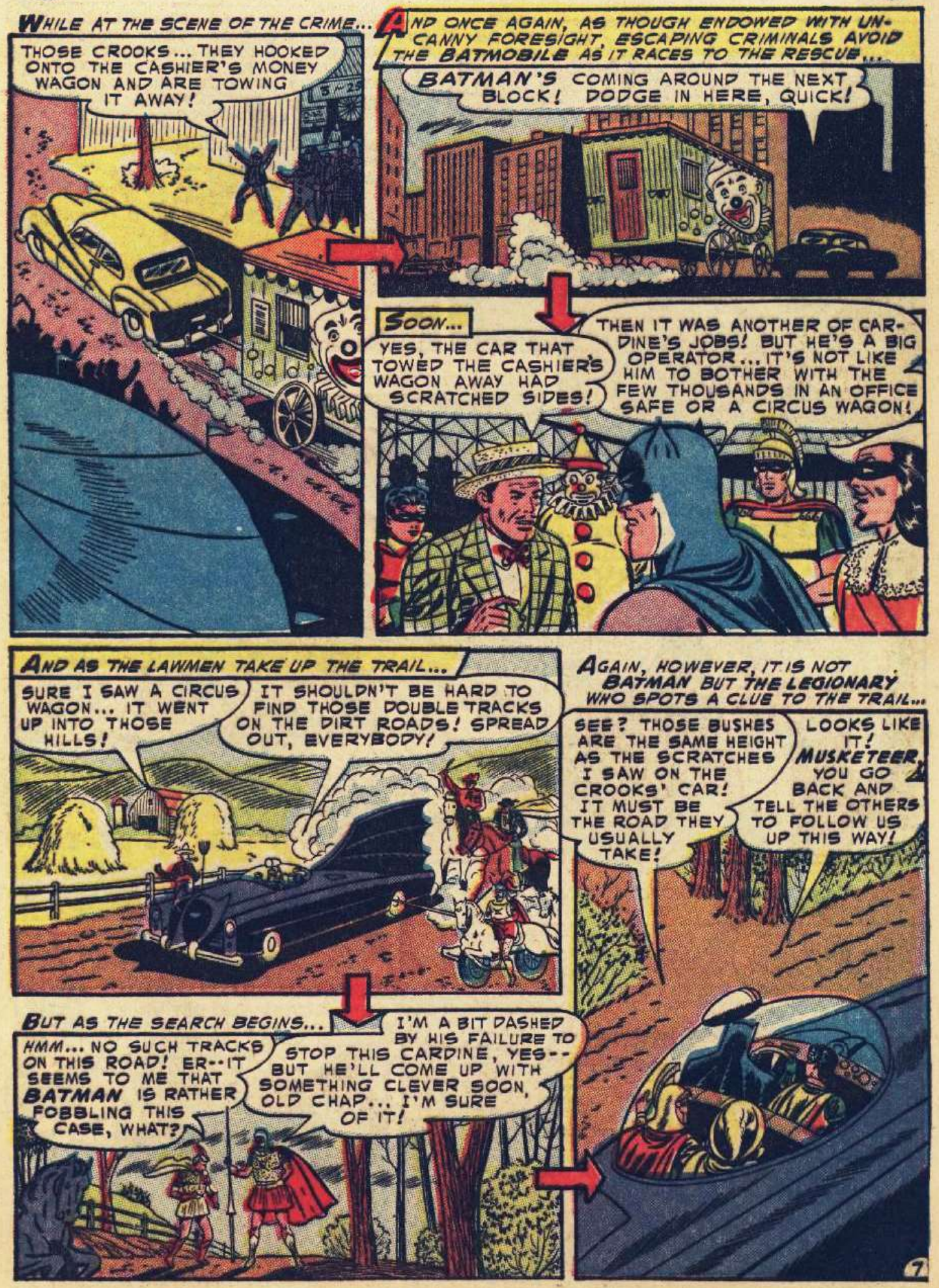

THE RANGER AND THE GAUCHO ARE COVERING GOTHAM BOULEVARD!
WE'VE CHECKED ALL THE STREETS EXCEPT AN ALLEY THEY COULDN'T MAKE SPEED IN-- SO THEY MUST BE STRAIGHT AHEAD OF US!
BUT AS THOUGH OVERHEARING BATMAN'S WORDS, THE CROOKS TAKE THAT ONE LOOPHOLE OF ESCAPE...
BATMAN ISN'T COVERING THIS ALLEY, SO WE CAN DOUBLE BACK ALONG IT AND PULL THE NEXT JOB!
HA, HA-- WE'RE SURE MAKING BATMAN LOOK BAD IN FRONT OF THESE VISITING "BATMEN"!
AND THE JUBILANT CROOK IS NOT FAR FROM WRONG...
NO CAR LIKE THAT WENT THROUGH THIS TOLL-GATE!
THEY DIDN'T TAKE OUR STREET, EITHER!
NOR OURS! THEY SLIPPED BACK PAST YOU, BATMAN!
RF 9W-603
27

THUS, BACK AT HEADQUARTERS, THE LAWMEN FACE A BAFFLING PROBLEM...
THEN "KNOTS" CARDINE GOT CLEAR AWAY-- AND WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HIS HIDEOUT IS!
IT'S AS THOUGH THEY KNEW JUST WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO!
THESE AMERICAN CROOKS-- THEY SEEM TO BE TOO MUCH EVEN FOR BATMAN!
WE MUST GET CARDINE FAST! TOMORROW, GOTHAM BANK IS TRANSFERRING MILLIONS IN CURRENCY TO ITS NEW BRANCH! EVEN THOUGH YOU ARRANGED TO GUARD IT, BATMAN, CARDINE MAY ATTEMPT TO ROB IT!

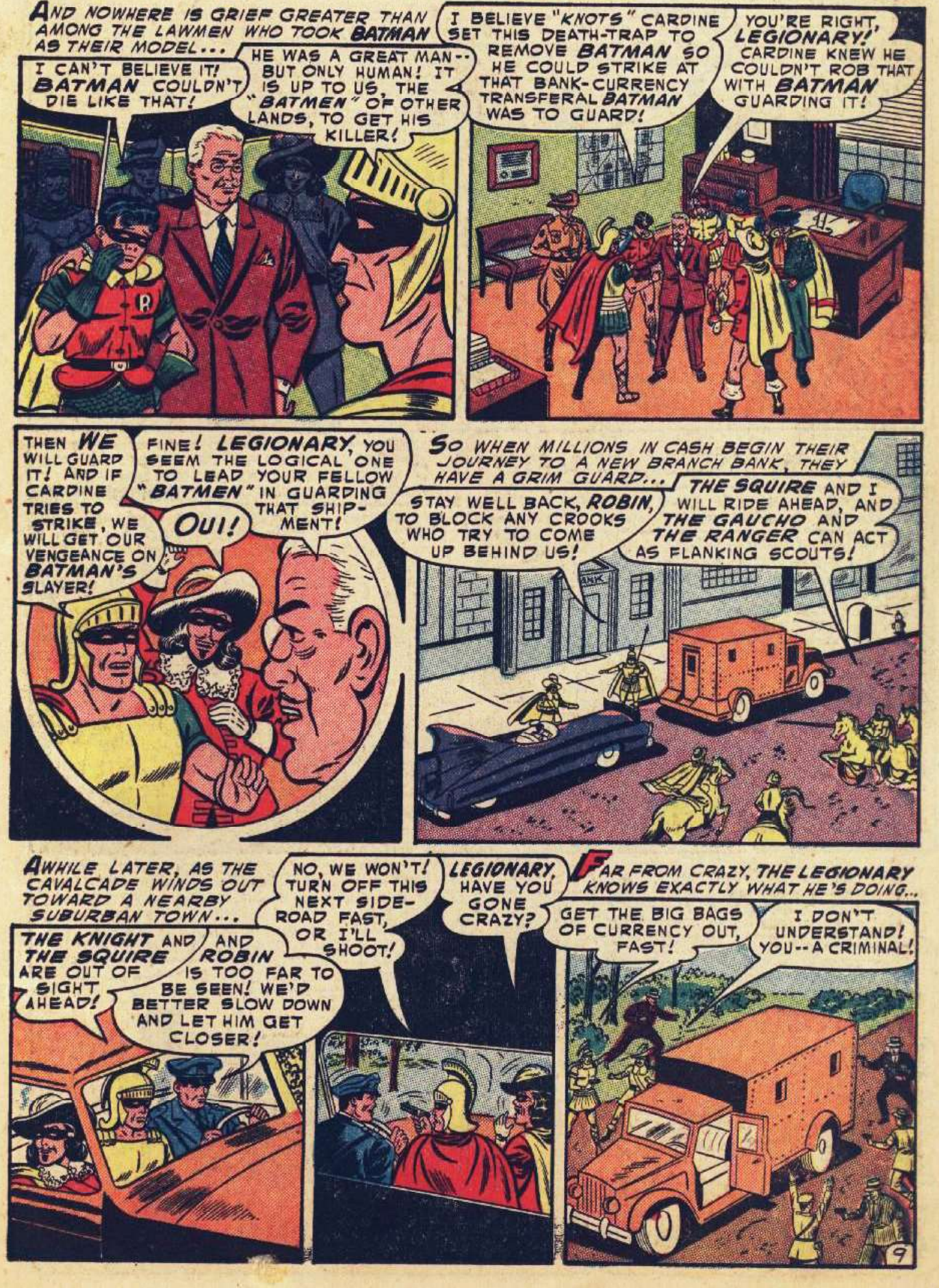
I HAVE ONE CLUE! THE CRIMINAL'S CAR WAS SCRATCHED ON THE SIDE, AS THOUGH BY BUSHES--SO THEIR HIDEOUT MUST BE IN A THICKLY-WOODED COUNTRY REGION!
THAT SHOULD HELP, LEGIONARY!
GOLLY... BATMAN ISN'T SHOWING UP VERY WELL BEFORE THESE FOREIGN LAWMEN! IT'S NOT LIKE HIM!
YOU CAN ISSUE A GENERAL ALARM FOR A CAR OF THAT DESCRIPTION, WITH A SCRATCHED SIDE! WE'LL PATROL THE CITY ALSO, IN SEARCH OF IT! IT'S OUR ONLY CLUE!


AND AS THE CITY-WIDE SEARCH BEGINS...
THE ONLY CLUE WE SPOTTED WAS BY THE LEGIONARY! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE GREAT BATMAN IS NOT SO CLEVER AS WE THOUGHT?
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS! REMEMBER HIS BRILLIANT RECORD-- THOUGH MAYBE THIS CARDINE IS A SMARTER CROOK THAN ANY HE EVER FACED!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...
FLASH BULLETIN! SIGNAL 22 AT WORLD CIRCUS! SIGNAL 22!
SIGNAL 22 ...THAT'S ROBBERY! WE'RE NOT FAR FROM THE CIRCUS! HANG ON!

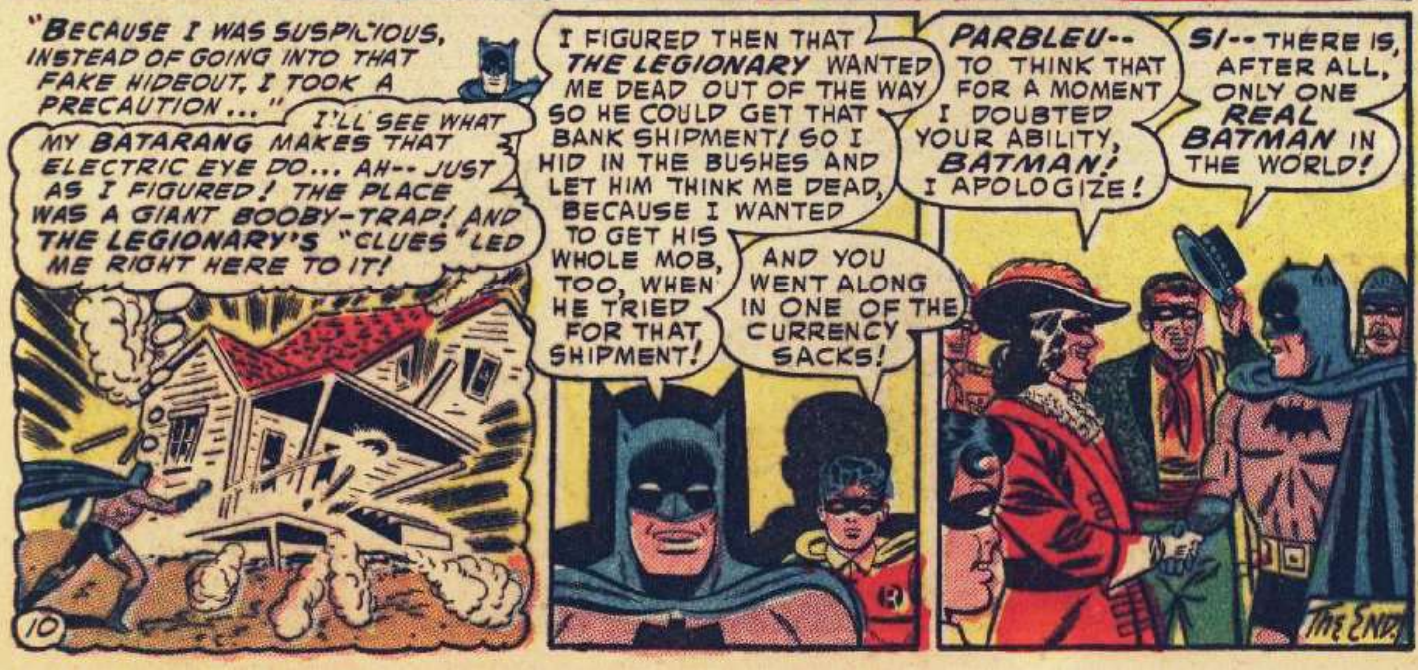

WHILE AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...
THOSE CROOKS... THEY HOOKED ONTO THE CASHIER'S MONEY WAGON AND ARE TOWING IT AWAY!
AND ONCE AGAIN, AS THOUGH ENDOWED WITH UNCANNY FORESIGHT, ESCAPING CRIMINALS AVOID THE BATMOBILE AS IT RACES TO THE RESCUE...
BATMAN'S COMING AROUND THE NEXT BLOCK! DODGE IN HERE, QUICK!
SOON...
YES, THE CAR THAT TOWED THE CASHIER'S WAGON AWAY HAD SCRATCHED SIDES!
THEN IT WAS ANOTHER OF CARDINE'S JOBS! BUT HE'S A BIG OPERATOR... IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO BOTHER WITH THE FEW THOUSANDS IN AN OFFICE SAFE OR A CIRCUS WAGON!
AND AS THE LAWMEN TAKE UP THE TRAIL...
SURE I SAW A CIRCUS WAGON... IT WENT UP INTO THOSE HILLS!
IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO FIND THOSE DOUBLE TRACKS ON THE DIRT ROADS! SPREAD OUT, EVERYBODY!
AGAIN, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT BATMAN BUT THE LEGIONARY WHO SPOTS A CLUE TO THE TRAIL...
SEE? THOSE BUSHES ARE THE SAME HEIGHT AS THE SCRATCHES I SAW ON THE CROOKS' CAR! IT MUST BE THE ROAD THEY USUALLY TAKE!
LOOKS LIKE IT! MUSKETEER, YOU GO BACK AND TELL THE OTHERS TO FOLLOW US UP THIS WAY!
BUT AS THE SEARCH BEGINS...
HMM... NO SUCH TRACKS ON THIS ROAD! ER--IT SEEMS TO ME THAT BATMAN IS RATHER FOBBLING THIS CASE, WHAT?
I'M A BIT DASHED BY HIS FAILURE TO STOP THIS CARDINE, YES-- BUT HE'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING CLEVER SOON, OLD CHAP... I'M SURE OF IT!

WITHIN A FEW MINUTES...
LOOK! THE DOUBLE TRACKS OF THE CROOKS' CAR AND THE MONEY-WAGON GO UP TO THAT OLD HOUSE!
IT MUST BE THEIR SECRET HIDEOUT! COME ON!
BUT SHOULDN'T ONE OF US STAY HERE, IN CASE ANY OF THEM TRY TO ESCAPE THIS WAY?
THE LEGIONARY IS RIGHT! YOU STAY HERE WITH HIM, ROBIN!
BUT IN THE NEXT INSTANT...
BAROOM!
SILENTLY, BATMAN APPROACHES A HOUSE OF SINISTER PERIL...
THAT OLD PORCH LAMP... THE LENS IN ITS SIDE SHOWS IT'S A DISGUISED ELECTRIC-EYE BEAM! CARDINE CERTAINLY USES MODERN DEVICES! I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL!
WHY-- THE WHOLE HOUSE EXPLODED TO BITS!
BATMAN! BATMAN!
ONLY PULVERIZED, SMOKING DEBRIS GREETS THE HORRIFIED ROBIN, WHEN HE RACES UP THE HILL...
WHY, THE PLACE MUST HAVE BEEN A GIANT BOOBY-TRAP, SET OFF BY BATMAN WHEN HE ENTERED!
A DEATH-TRAP THAT "KNOTS" CARDINE SET FOR HIM! HE DEFIED BATMAN PUBLICLY BECAUSE HE WANTED HIM TO FIND THIS FAKE HIDEOUT-- AND BE DESTROYED!
THUS, A HEADLINE NO ONE EVER DREAMED OF READING SOON FLARES ACROSS GOTHAM CITY...
IT'S INCREDIBLE, BUT TRUE! BATMAN FINALLY HAS MET HIS DOOM!
GOTHAM NEWS
BATMAN KILLED


AND NOWHERE IS GRIEF GREATER THAN AMONG THE LAWMEN WHO TOOK BATMAN AS THEIR MODEL...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! BATMAN COULDN'T DIE LIKE THAT!
HE WAS A GREAT MAN-- BUT ONLY HUMAN! IT IS UP TO US, THE "BATMEN" OF OTHER LANDS, TO GET HIS KILLER!
I BELIEVE "KNOTS" CARDINE SET THIS DEATH-TRAP TO REMOVE BATMAN SO HE COULD STRIKE AT THAT BANK-CURRENCY TRANSFERAL BATMAN WAS TO GUARD!
YOU'RE RIGHT, LEGIONARY! CARDINE KNEW HE COULDN'T ROB THAT WITH BATMAN GUARDING IT!
THEN WE WILL GUARD IT! AND IF CARDINE TRIES TO STRIKE, WE WILL GET OUR VENGEANCE ON BATMAN'S SLAYER!
FINE! LEGIONARY, YOU SEEM THE LOGICAL ONE TO LEAD YOUR FELLOW "BATMEN" IN GUARDING THAT SHIPMENT!
OUI!
SO WHEN MILLIONS IN CASH BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY TO A NEW BRANCH BANK, THEY HAVE A GRIM GUARD...
STAY WELL BACK, ROBIN, TO BLOCK ANY CROOKS WHO TRY TO COME UP BEHIND US!
THE SQUIRE AND I WILL RIDE AHEAD, AND THE GAUCHO AND THE RANGER CAN ACT AS FLANKING SCOUTS!
AWHILE LATER, AS THE CAVALCADE WINDS OUT TOWARD A NEARBY SUBURBAN TOWN...
THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE ARE OUT OF SIGHT AHEAD!
AND ROBIN IS TOO FAR TO BE SEEN! WE'D BETTER SLOW DOWN AND LET HIM GET CLOSER!
NO, WE WON'T! TURN OFF THIS NEXT SIDE-ROAD FAST, OR I'LL SHOOT!
LEGIONARY, HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?
FAR FROM CRAZY, THE LEGIONARY KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE'S DOING...
GET THE BIG BAGS OF CURRENCY OUT, FAST!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOU--A CRIMINAL!

BUT SUDDENLY...
BATMAN! I DON'T GET IT! HE SAID YOU'RE DEAD-- OOF!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU--BUT I'M VERY MUCH ALIVE!
$ 100,
$ 50,000
I GOT YOUR BELT-RADIO MESSAGE JUST NOW, BATMAN-- THE GLADDEST ONE I EVER RECEIVED!
I COULDN'T CALL YOU WHEN YOU WERE WITH THE LEGIONARY! AH-- THE REST OF THE "BATMEN" ARE HURRYING BACK TO JOIN IN THE FUN!

AND AS WHIRLWIND CRIME-FIGHTERS, FROM ALL LANDS, POUNCE ON THE STUNNED CROOKS...
WHY, THE LEGIONARY IS "KNOTS" CARDINE HIMSELF!
HE MUST HAVE KIDNAPPED THE REAL LEGIONARY WHEN HE ARRIVED, AND TOOK HIS PLACE! SEE HOW HE KEPT HIS MEN WARNED?... A WALKIE-TALKIE MIKE INSIDE HIS HELMET, WITH HIS SPEAR FOR AN AERIAL!
PRESENTLY, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AFTER THE REAL LEGIONARY HAS BEEN RELEASED...
CARDINE IMPERSONATED A VISITING "BATMAN" IN ORDER TO LEAD ME INTO A DEATH-TRAP, SO HE COULD REPLACE ME AS GUARD OF THE BANK SHIPMENT! BUT HIS FIRST "CLUE" MADE ME SUSPECT HIM... HE WAS ON THE DARK SIDE OF THAT GETAWAY CAR AND COULDN'T HAVE SEEN THOSE SCRATCHES ON IT!


"BECAUSE I WAS SUSPICIOUS, INSTEAD OF GOING INTO THAT FAKE HIDEOUT, I TOOK A PRECAUTION..."
I'LL SEE WHAT MY BATARANG MAKES THAT ELECTRIC EYE DO... AH-- JUST AS I FIGURED! THE PLACE WAS A GIANT BOOBY-TRAP! AND THE LEGIONARY'S "CLUES" LED ME RIGHT HERE TO IT!
I FIGURED THEN THAT THE LEGIONARY WANTED ME DEAD OUT OF THE WAY SO HE COULD GET THAT BANK SHIPMENT! SO I HID IN THE BUSHES AND LET HIM THINK ME DEAD, BECAUSE I WANTED TO GET HIS WHOLE MOB, TOO, WHEN HE TRIED FOR THAT SHIPMENT!
AND YOU WENT ALONG IN ONE OF THE CURRENCY SACKS!
PARBLEU-- TO THINK THAT FOR A MOMENT I DOUBTED YOUR ABILITY, BATMAN! I APOLOGIZE!
SI-- THERE IS, AFTER ALL, ONLY ONE REAL BATMAN IN THE WORLD!
THE END

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ONE DAY, AS BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, CLEAN OUT THEIR ATTIC...
BRUCE! LOOK! I MUST HAVE TOUCHED A HIDDEN SPRING IN YOUR FATHER'S OLD DESK!
A SECRET DRAWER! AND THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE IT!
TO HIS SURPRISE, BRUCE WITHDRAWS A FANTASTIC GARMENT...
IT'S... A KIND OF BATMAN COSTUME!
DICK, I THINK I'VE SEEN THIS COSTUME BEFORE-- ON MY FATHER--LONG, LONG AGO!

THEN THAT MEANS YOUR FATHER WAS A "BATMAN" BEFORE YOU!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I WAS THE FIRST "BATMAN"! I ADOPTED THE FIRST BATMAN COSTUME YEARS AFTER I SAW MY PARENTS KILLED BY A ROBBER!
BRUCE'S THOUGHTS WHIRL BACK TO WHEN HE WAS A BOY AND MADE A PROMISE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS...
I VOW THAT I'LL DEDICATE MY LIFE TO BRING YOUR KILLER TO JUSTICE... AND TO FIGHT ALL CRIME!
AS YEARS PASSED, BRUCE MASTERED SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION... TRAINED HIS BODY TO ATHLETIC PERFECTION...

ONE NIGHT, HE WAS AT LAST READY FOR HIS CHOSEN CAREER, BUT HE NEEDED A DISGUISE THAT WOULD STRIKE TERROR INTO CRIMINAL HEARTS...
A BAT-- IT'S FLOWN IN THE WINDOW! IT'S LIKE AN OMEN! I SHALL BECOME A BAT-- A BATMAN!
YEARS PASSED, AND BATMAN NEVER GAVE UP HIS SEARCH FOR THE KILLER! THEN ONE DAY, WHILE INVESTIGATING A CRIMINAL NAMED JOEY CHILL...
IT'S THE MAN WHO KILLED MY PARENTS. HE'S OLDER NOW-- BUT I COULD NEVER FORGET THAT FACE!

BUT, IRONICALLY, JOEY CHILL WAS SHOT DOWN BY OTHER MOBSTERS WHO HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM...
BANG!
HE'S DEAD! HIS OWN CRIMES FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM!
THIS THEN, WAS THE ORIGIN OF BATMAN! THEN HOW COULD HIS FATHER HAVE BEEN A BATMAN BEFORE HIM?
LOOK! HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE IN THE DRAWER! A CAN OF MOVIE FILM AND A DIARY!
LET'S LOOK AT THE FILM FIRST! I'LL SET UP THE PROJECTOR!
SOON, THE TWO VIEW AN EPISODE FROM THE PAST...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S MASQUERADE BALL IS "FLYING CREATURES"!
AND OUR FIRST PRIZE FOR THE BEST "FLYING CREATURE" COSTUME GOES TO DR. THOMAS WAYNE FOR HIS BAT-MAN COSTUME!
MY FATHER!
SUDDENLY...
WE FIGURED THERE'D BE A DOC IN THIS CROWD! COME ON, DOC-- WE NEED YOU! MAKE IT SNAPPY!
YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME!
ATTABOY, DAD!

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"I SUDDENLY HOOKED ONE FOOT AROUND MOXON'S CHAIR AND..."
WHAT...?!

"THAT LEFT ONLY TWO HOODLUMS TO DEAL WITH!"
I'LL LET THE POLICE TAKE OVER FROM HERE!

WOW! EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY TRAINING IN FIGHTING CROOKS, YOUR FATHER PULLED A TYPICAL BATMAN STUNT!
MY FATHER WAS QUITE A GUY!

THE DIARY CONTINUES--"AT HIS TRIAL, MOXON WAS SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY..."
YOU DID THIS TO ME! I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, WAYNE-- I'LL GET YOU!

"TEN YEARS ROLLED BY! I'D INVESTED MY SAVINGS WISELY AND BECAME WEALTHY! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN MOXON UNTIL TODAY..."
MOXON-- FREE!
YEAH-- I SERVED MY TEN YEARS IN JAIL-- WHERE YOU PUT ME! I SWORE I'D GET YOU, AND I WILL!

BUT I'M TOO SMART TO DO IT MYSELF! THE POLICE WOULD ARREST ME ON SUSPICION FAST! I'LL GET SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT FOR ME!

HERE THE DIARY ENDS!
THIS MEANS JOEY CHILL ONLY PRETENDED TO BE A HOLDUP MAN-- ACTUALLY HE WAS MOXON'S HIRED KILLER! MOXON MUST HAVE ORDERED CHILL NOT TO KILL ME, TOO-- SO I'D BE ALIVE TO TESTIFY THAT MY PARENTS WERE KILLED BY A ROBBER!

GOSH, BRUCE-- MOXON USED YOU AS HIS ALIBI!
HE USED ME AS A COVERUP FOR HIS DELIBERATE MURDER OF MY PARENTS! PUT ON YOUR COSTUME, DICK-- WE'VE JUST REOPENED THE WAYNE MURDER CASE!

LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...
COMMISSIONER, I'D LIKE TO KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF LEW MOXON!
I'LL HAVE THIS TELE-PHOTOED TO EVERY POLICE DEPART-MENT IN THE COUNTRY!

AND WHEN THE INFORMATION COMES...
MOXON IS NOW IN THE BILLBOARD BLIMP BUSINESS OUT WEST-- IN COASTAL CITY!

SOON AFTER, THE SLEEK BATPLANE RACES THROUGH THE SKIES...
WHY DID YOU HAVE ME BRING ALONG YOUR FATHER'S COSTUME, BATMAN?
IT GIVES ME THE FEELING THAT MY FATHER IS WITH ME ON THIS CASE!

HOURS LATER, AT THEIR DESTINATION, TWO FIGURES MOVE LIKE SHADOWS TOWARDS A BLIMP HANGAR...
MOXON SKY-HI ADVERTISING CO.

BUT, IN THE DARKNESS, ROBIN'S FOOT KICKS A MISPLACED GASOLINE CAN...
CLANK

BATMAN AND ROBIN! GET 'EM!

AS ROBIN DARTS FORWARD, A SWINGING SANDBAG TREACHEROUSLY FELLS HIM!
UH-H!
WE GOT THE BRAT! BATMAN WILL BE EASIER TO TAKE NOW!
BOP!
UNDER THE IMPACT OF FOUR THUGS, BATMAN IS BROUGHT DOWN...

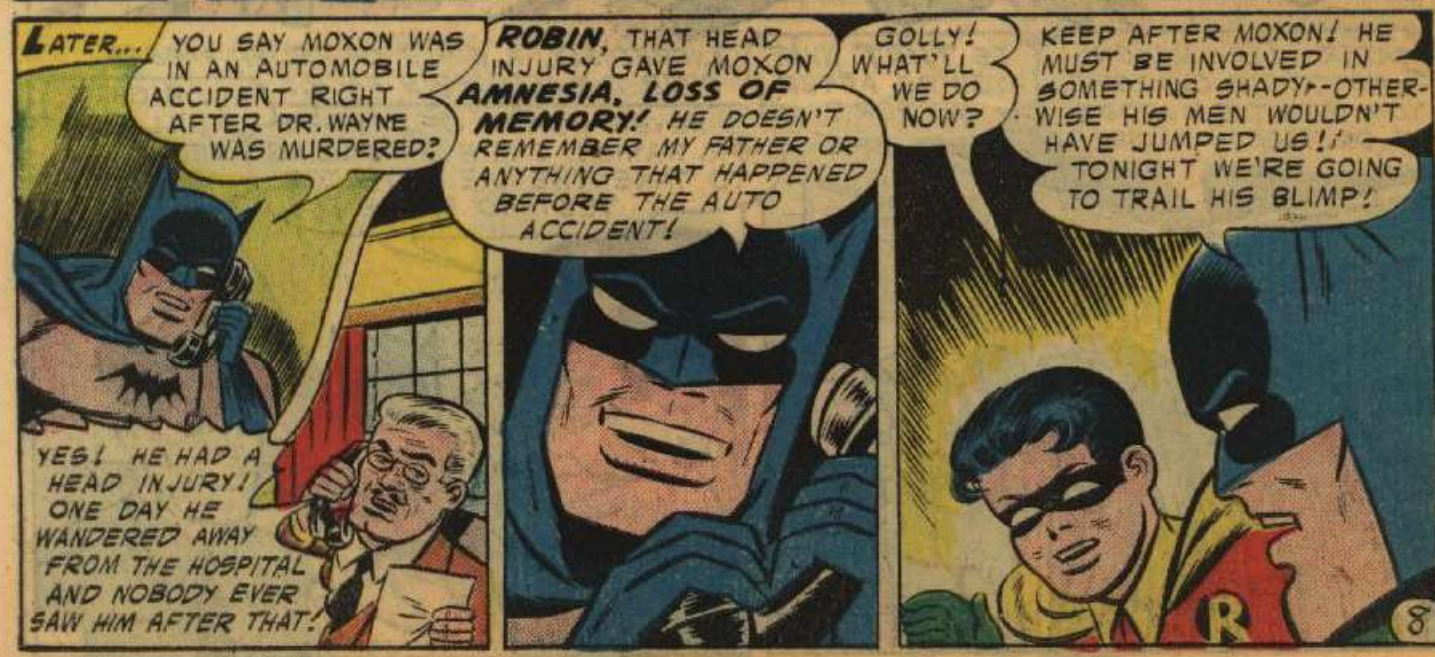
... BUT NOT FOR LONG!
THIS'LL TAKE THE FIGHT OUT OF ALL OF YOU!

LATER...
LEW MOXON, I'M CHARGING YOU WITH THE MURDER OF DR. THOMAS WAYNE!
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE AFTER ME FOR?

INCREDIBLY, A SMILE OF RELIEF PASSES OVER THE ACCUSED'S FACE...
I NEVER HEARD OF ANY DR. WAYNE! I'M EVEN WILLING TO TAKE THE LIE DETECTOR TEST TO PROVE IT!
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL SOON SEE IF YOU ARE LYING!

SOON...
DIDN'T YOU HIRE JOEY CHILL TO MURDER DR. WAYNE?
NO! I NEVER EVEN HEARD OF JOEY CHILL!
YOU KNOW YOU HATED DR. WAYNE, THAT YOU SWORE YOU'D GET HIM!
I DON'T KNOW ANY DR. WAYNE-- AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT!

BATMAN CONTINUES TO HAMMER QUESTIONS AT THE PRISONER, AND WHEN THE INTERROGATION IS OVER...
SEE FOR YOURSELF, BATMAN-- THE NEEDLE DIDN'T JUMP ONCE. NOBODY CAN BEAT THE MACHINE-- SO HE MUST BE TELLING THE TRUTH!
HELPLESSLY, BATMAN SEES MOXON RELEASED ON BAIL FOR ASSAULT AND BATTERY...
HOW COULD MOXON BE TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN WE KNOW HE WAS INVOLVED IN YOUR FATHER'S MURDER? THAT'S SOMETHING NOBODY CAN FORGET!
FORGET? HMM-MM! I THINK I'LL PLACE A LONG DISTANCE PHONE CALL TO POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON!


LATER...
YOU SAY MOXON WAS IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT RIGHT AFTER DR. WAYNE WAS MURDERED?
YES! HE HAD A HEAD INJURY! ONE DAY HE WANDERED AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL AND NOBODY EVER SAW HIM AFTER THAT!
ROBIN, THAT HEAD INJURY GAVE MOXON AMNESIA, LOSS OF MEMORY! HE DOESN'T REMEMBER MY FATHER OR ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED BEFORE THE AUTO ACCIDENT!
GOLLY! WHAT'LL WE DO NOW?
KEEP AFTER MOXON! HE MUST BE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING SHADY--OTHERWISE HIS MEN WOULDN'T HAVE JUMPED US! TONIGHT WE'RE GOING TO TRAIL HIS BLIMP!

THAT NIGHT, A FLOATING BILLBOARD FLASHES ITS SKY-HIGH ELECTRIC SIGN...
NOTHING SUSPICIOUS HAPPENING SO FAR, BATMAN!
S.S. OIL
SUDDENLY, THE ELECTRIC LIGHTS WINK OUT, LEAVING THE DARK BLIMP ALMOST UNSEEN AGAINST THE NIGHT SKY...
LOOK! A MAN IS BEING LOWERED TO THAT PENTHOUSE! SO THAT'S MOXON'S ANGLE-- USING HIS BLIMP TO PULL SKY-HIGH BURGLARY JOBS!
AFTER SETTING THE VERSATILE BATPLANE ON ROBOT STABILIZER CONTROLS...
ROBIN, YOU GO AFTER THE MAN ON THE ROOF-- I'LL TAKE THE GONDOLA!
LIKE A HAWK, ROBIN PLUMMETS DOWN ON HIS QUARRY!
LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT THE DROP ON YOU!
MEANWHILE, THE ACROBATMAN TRAPEZES THROUGH SPACE...
...AND SWIFTLY SCALING THE BLIMP'S ROPE LADDER, BURSTS INTO ITS GONDOLA!
BATMAN!
THIS BLIMP'S NEXT STOP WILL BE POLICE HEADQUARTERS!
LATER, AFTER THE PRISONERS ARE JAILED...
NOW LET'S PICK UP MOXON! BUT FIRST YOU'D BETTER CHANGE TO YOUR SPARE BATMAN COSTUME-- THAT LAST SCRAP REALLY SHREDDED THIS ONE!
OH, OH! I FORGOT TO PACK A SPARE IN THE BATPLANE!

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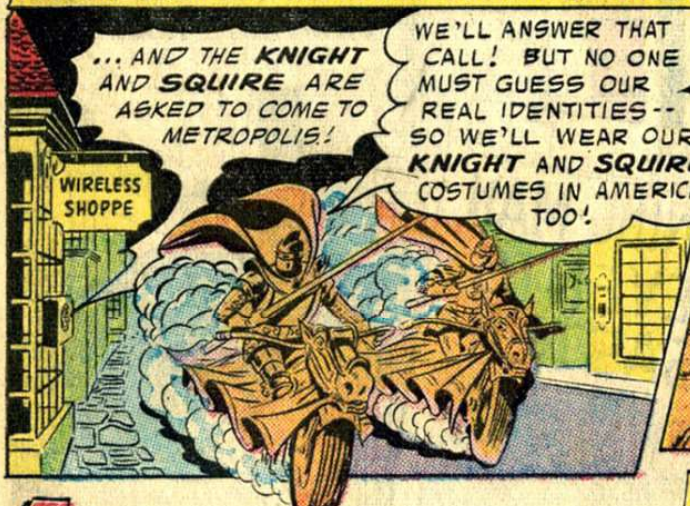

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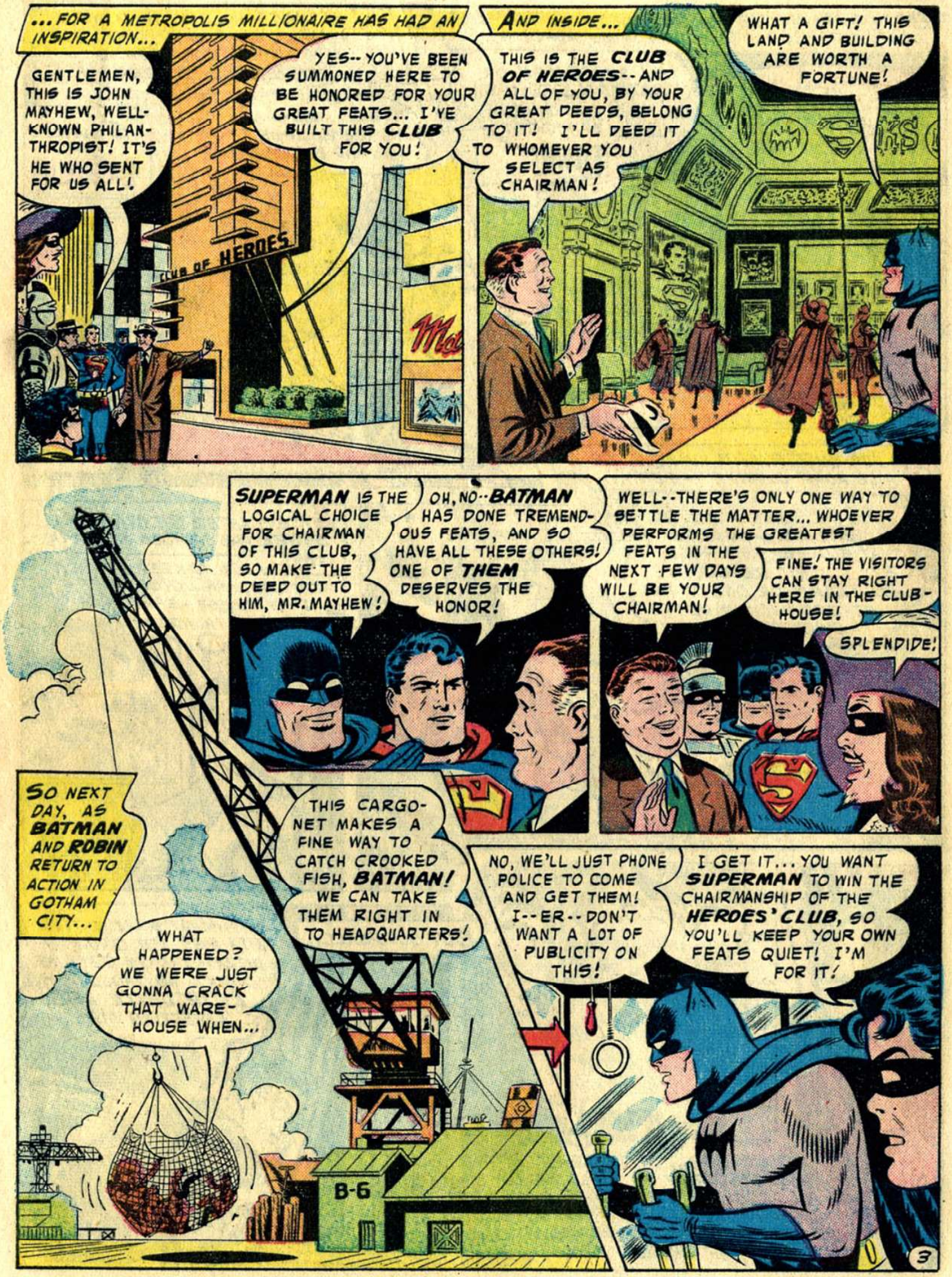
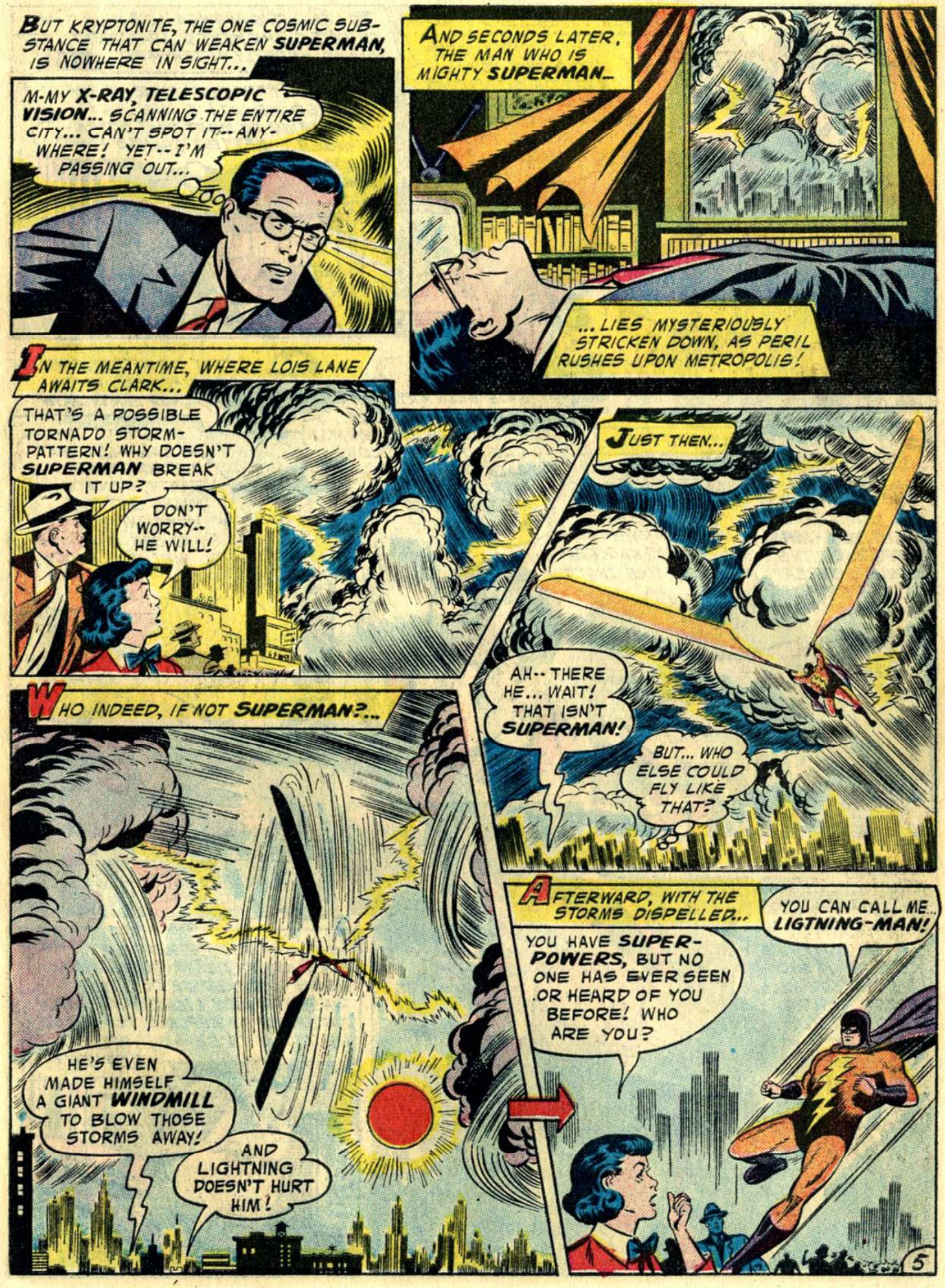
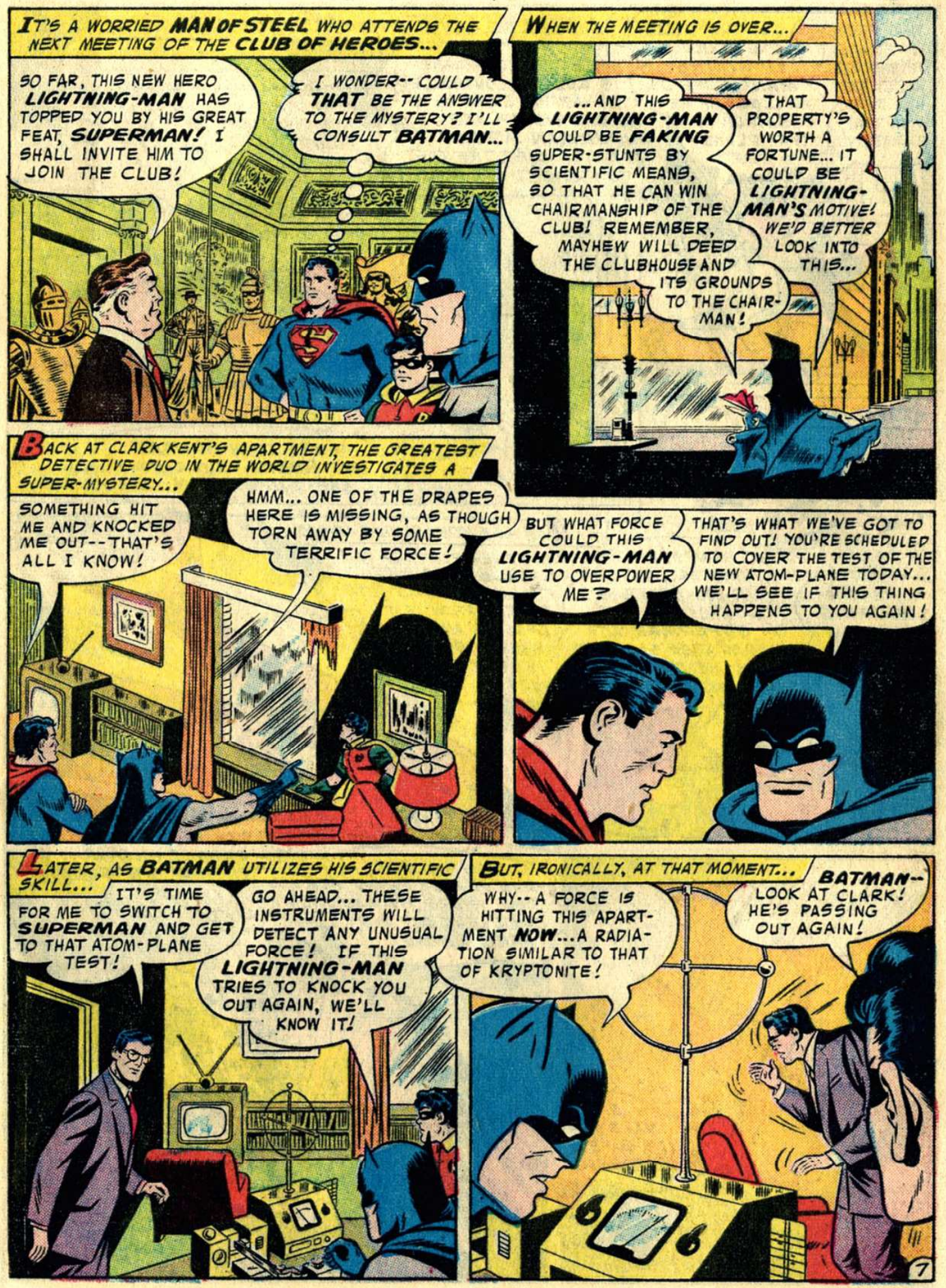

...FOR A METROPOLIS MILLIONAIRE HAS HAD AN INSPIRATION...
GENTLEMEN, THIS IS JOHN MAYHEW, WELL-KNOWN PHILANTHROPIST! IT'S HE WHO SENT FOR US ALL!
YES--YOU'VE BEEN SUMMONED HERE TO BE HONORED FOR YOUR GREAT FEATS... I'VE BUILT THIS CLUB FOR YOU!
CLUB OF HEROES
AND INSIDE...
THIS IS THE CLUB OF HEROES--AND ALL OF YOU, BY YOUR GREAT DEEDS, BELONG TO IT! I'LL DEED IT TO WHOMEVER YOU SELECT AS CHAIRMAN!
WHAT A GIFT! THIS LAND AND BUILDING ARE WORTH A FORTUNE!
SUPERMAN IS THE LOGICAL CHOICE FOR CHAIRMAN OF THIS CLUB, SO MAKE THE DEED OUT TO HIM, MR. MAYHEW!
OH, NO--BATMAN HAS DONE TREMENDOUS FEATS, AND SO HAVE ALL THESE OTHERS! ONE OF THEM DESERVES THE HONOR!
WELL--THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SETTLE THE MATTER... WHOEVER PERFORMS THE GREATEST FEATS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE YOUR CHAIRMAN!
FINE! THE VISITORS CAN STAY RIGHT HERE IN THE CLUB-HOUSE!
SPLENDIDE!
SO NEXT DAY, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN RETURN TO ACTION IN GOTHAM CITY...
WHAT HAPPENED? WE WERE JUST GONNA CRACK THAT WAREHOUSE WHEN...
THIS CARGO-NET MAKES A FINE WAY TO CATCH CROOKED FISH, BATMAN! WE CAN TAKE THEM RIGHT IN TO HEADQUARTERS!
NO, WE'LL JUST PHONE POLICE TO COME AND GET THEM! I--ER--DON'T WANT A LOT OF PUBLICITY ON THIS!
I GET IT... YOU WANT SUPERMAN TO WIN THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HEROES' CLUB, SO YOU'LL KEEP YOUR OWN FEATS QUIET! I'M FOR IT!
B-6

BUT OTHERS OF THE HERO-LAWMEN HAVE THE SAME IDEA, AS THEY GO INTO ACTION IN METROPOLIS...
LUCKILY, WE CAUGHT THESE THIEVES IN THE ACT-- BUT WE'LL NOT CLAIM CREDIT FOR THEIR CAPTURE!
SI! SUPERMAN OR BATMAN SHOULD WIN THE CHAIRMANSHIP, BY RIGHTS!
JEWEL
MY LANCE-VAULTING TRICK WORKS AS WELL HERE AS AT HOME... BUT IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO SUPERMAN'S FEATS!
TRUE... WE CAN NEVER ECLIPSE HIM AND BATMAN!
Savings AND LOAN
AS FOR SUPERMAN HIMSELF, ON A HILL ROAD OUTSIDE THE CITY...
IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE TO CLEAR THE LANDSLIDE THAT BLOCKED THIS ROAD, BUT I WON'T REPORT IT! BATMAN OR ONE OF THE OTHERS SHOULD BE THE CLUB CHAIRMAN!
LATER, AFTER THE MAN OF STEEL HAS CHANGED TO CLARK KENT...
NOW TO KEEP A DATE WITH LOIS, AND... GOOD GRIEF-- I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH LOUD THUNDER!
BUT SUDDENLY...
WHY-- WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? I'M GROWING DIZZY-- THINGS GETTING DARK... AS THOUGH KRYPTONITE WERE AFFECTING ME!
NO WONDER... A CIRCLE OF THUNDERSTORMS IS BUILDING UP ALL AROUND METROPOLIS! A FORMATION LIKE THAT CAN CAUSE TORNADOES... I'D BETTER SWITCH TO SUPERMAN AND BREAK UP THOSE STORMS!


BUT KRYPTONITE, THE ONE COSMIC SUBSTANCE THAT CAN WEAKEN SUPERMAN, IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT...
M-MY X-RAY, TELESCOPIC VISION... SCANNING THE ENTIRE CITY... CAN'T SPOT IT-- ANYWHERE! YET-- I'M PASSING OUT...
AND SECONDS LATER, THE MAN WHO IS MIGHTY SUPERMAN...
...LIES MYSTERIOUSLY STRICKEN DOWN, AS PERIL RUSHES UPON METROPOLIS!
IN THE MEANTIME, WHERE LOIS LANE AWAITS CLARK...
THAT'S A POSSIBLE TORNADO STORM-PATTERN! WHY DOESN'T SUPERMAN BREAK IT UP?
DON'T WORRY-- HE WILL!
JUST THEN...
AH-- THERE HE... WAIT! THAT ISN'T SUPERMAN!
BUT... WHO ELSE COULD FLY LIKE THAT?
WHO INDEED, IF NOT SUPERMAN?...
HE'S EVEN MADE HIMSELF A GIANT WINDMILL TO BLOW THOSE STORMS AWAY!
AND LIGHTNING DOESN'T HURT HIM!
AFTERWARD, WITH THE STORMS DISPELLED...
YOU HAVE SUPER-POWERS, BUT NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN OR HEARD OF YOU BEFORE! WHO ARE YOU?
YOU CAN CALL ME... LIGTNING-MAN!

AND AS THIS NEW SUPER-HERO STREAKS AWAY...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS AT ALL! WHERE'S SUPERMAN? WHY DIDN'T HE MEET THAT DANGER, INSTEAD OF THIS NEWCOMER?
LIKE SUPERMAN, HE KEEPS HIS IDENTITY SECRET! BUT HE'S SURE TERRIFIC!
TO LEARN THE ANSWER, LOIS WOULD HAVE TO VISIT CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT, WHERE, SHORTLY AFTERWARD...
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ME, IT REALLY KNOCKED ME OUT! I WAS JUST PREPARING TO MEET THAT STORM-DANGER... BETTER CHANGE FAST!
BUT AS CLARK HASTILY SWITCHES FOR ACTION...
...AND THIS NEWS-PHOTO SHOWS HOW THE NEW HERO, LIGHTNING-MAN, DISPERSED THE TORNADO-THREAT BY SUPER-ACTION!
WHAT--? WH-WHO'S LIGHTNING-MAN? HOW DID HE GET SUPER-POWERS? AND WHAT KNOCKED ME OUT LIKE THAT?
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN KRYPTONITE, BECAUSE I SAW NONE FOR MILES AROUND! WHAT'S MORE, I KEEP CLOSE TRACK OF ALL KRYPTONITE DANGERS, AND THE LAST WAS...
"...THAT BIG METEOR, CONTAINING KRYPTONITE, WHICH APPROACHED EARTH DAYS AGO!"
CAN'T LET THAT METEOR REACH EARTH, OR CROOKS MIGHT GET THE KRYPTONITE ON IT, AND USE IT AGAINST ME! I'LL KNOCK IT BACK INTO SPACE...
WITHIN SECONDS, I WAS OUT OF DANGER...
THAT MOUNTAIN I THREW HIT IT AND KNOCKED IT BACK! THE METEOR WILL NEVER RETURN TO EARTH!
SO NO KRYPTONITE REACHED EARTH-- WHICH MEANS SOMETHING ELSE KNOCKED ME OUT, JUST WHEN THIS NEW LIGHTNING-MAN APPEARED TO REPLACE ME! MAYBE HE DID IT TO ME-- BUT HOW?... AND WHY?


IT'S A WORRIED MAN OF STEEL WHO ATTENDS THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CLUB OF HEROES...
SO FAR, THIS NEW HERO LIGHTNING-MAN HAS TOPPED YOU BY HIS GREAT FEAT, SUPERMAN! I SHALL INVITE HIM TO JOIN THE CLUB!
I WONDER-- COULD THAT BE THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY? I'LL CONSULT BATMAN...
WHEN THE MEETING IS OVER...
...AND THIS LIGHTNING-MAN COULD BE FAKING SUPER-STUNTS BY SCIENTIFIC MEANS, SO THAT HE CAN WIN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CLUB! REMEMBER, MAYHEW WILL DEED THE CLUBHOUSE AND ITS GROUNDS TO THE CHAIRMAN!
THAT PROPERTY'S WORTH A FORTUNE... IT COULD BE LIGHTNING-MAN'S MOTIVE! WE'D BETTER LOOK INTO THIS...
BACK AT CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT, THE GREATEST DETECTIVE DUO IN THE WORLD INVESTIGATES A SUPER-MYSTERY...
SOMETHING HIT ME AND KNOCKED ME OUT--THAT'S ALL I KNOW!
HMM... ONE OF THE DRAPES HERE IS MISSING, AS THOUGH TORN AWAY BY SOME TERRIFIC FORCE!
BUT WHAT FORCE COULD THIS LIGHTNING-MAN USE TO OVERPOWER ME?
THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT! YOU'RE SCHEDULED TO COVER THE TEST OF THE NEW ATOM-PLANE TODAY... WE'LL SEE IF THIS THING HAPPENS TO YOU AGAIN!
LATER, AS BATMAN UTILIZES HIS SCIENTIFIC SKILL...
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SWITCH TO SUPERMAN AND GET TO THAT ATOM-PLANE TEST!
GO AHEAD... THESE INSTRUMENTS WILL DETECT ANY UNUSUAL FORCE! IF THIS LIGHTNING-MAN TRIES TO KNOCK YOU OUT AGAIN, WE'LL KNOW IT!
BUT, IRONICALLY, AT THAT MOMENT...
WHY-- A FORCE IS HITTING THIS APARTMENT NOW... A RADIATION SIMILAR TO THAT OF KRYPTONITE!
BATMAN-- LOOK AT CLARK! HE'S PASSING OUT AGAIN!

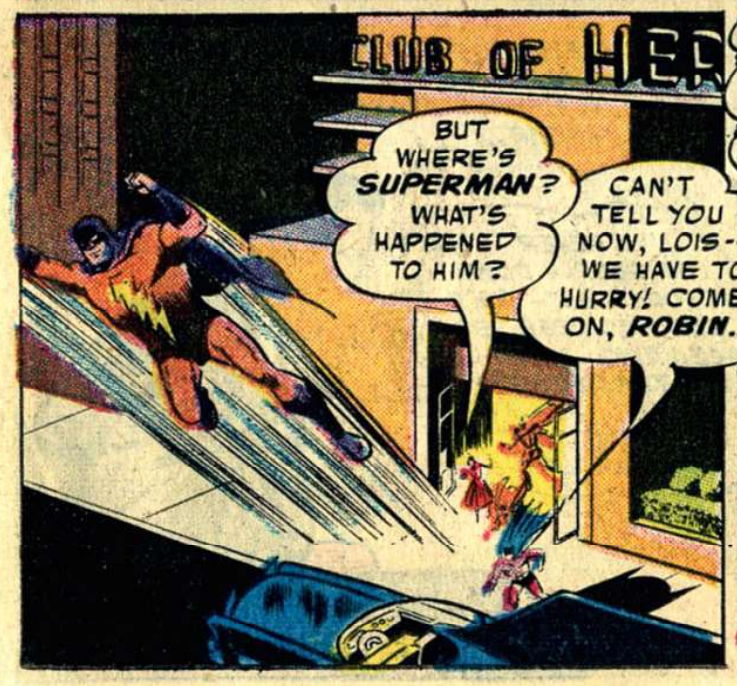
THAT PROVES IT-- SOMEONE IS DELIBERATELY KNOCKING HIM OUT WITH THAT RADIATION!
AND THAT SOMEONE COULD BE LIGHTNING-MAN! COME ON... WE'LL SEE IF HE SHOWS UP AT THAT PLANE-TEST!
AND AS A BIG, NEW ATOM-POWERED PLANE IS LAUNCHED...
SINCE THE ATOM-PLANE IS REMOTE-CONTROLLED, IT HAS NO CREW IN IT TO RUN RISKS-- AND SUPERMAN AGREED TO WATCH OVER THE TEST, TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS!
THERE COME BATMAN AND ROBIN-- BUT I DON'T SEE SUPERMAN YET!
AT THAT INSTANT...
THERE HE IS!... LIGHTNING-MAN! HOW DID HE GET SUPER-POWERS?
THAT'S A MYSTERY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S KNOCKING OUT SUPERMAN WITH RADIATION, EACH TIME, SO HE CAN PERFORM BIG FEATS!
AND AS SUDDEN DANGER ARISES...
THE POWER-PLANT OF THE PLANE HAS RUN WILD... IT'LL BE A MENACE WITH ITS RADIATION IF IT CRASHES ANY-WHERE! BUT IT CAN'T HURT ME...
I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S SAFELY DISPOSED...
MOMENTS LATER, IN THE CRATER OF A LONG-EXTINCT VOLCANO...
THIS WILL BURY THE DEADLY PLANE, FOR ALL TIME, WHERE ITS RADIATION CAN'T LEAK OUT AND HARM ANYONE!

BACK AT THE AIRPORT...
THANKS, LIGHTNING-MAN... YOU PREVENTED A DISASTER, WHEN SUPERMAN FAILED TO SHOW UP!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT HIS GAME...

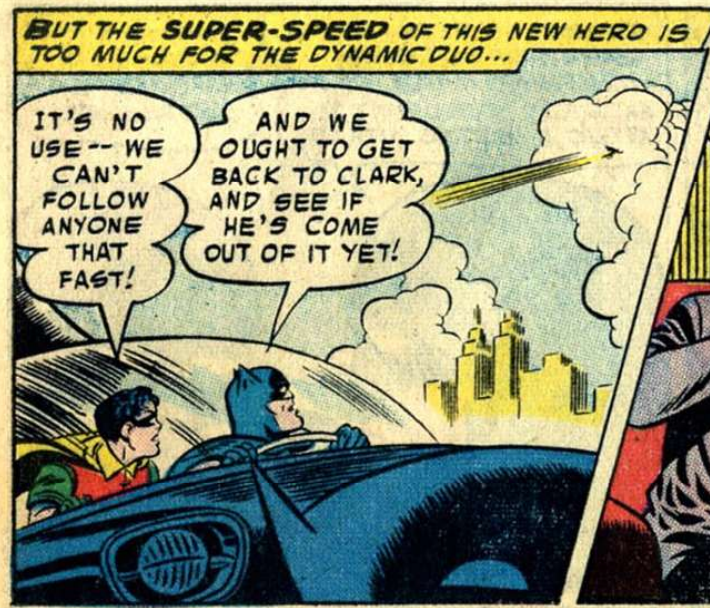
ER... YOU'VE BEEN MADE A MEMBER OF OUR CLUB, LIGHTNING-MAN, SO NATURALLY YOU'LL WANT TO ATTEND A MEETING WITH US!
WELL-- I CAN HARDLY REFUSE SUCH AN HONOR!

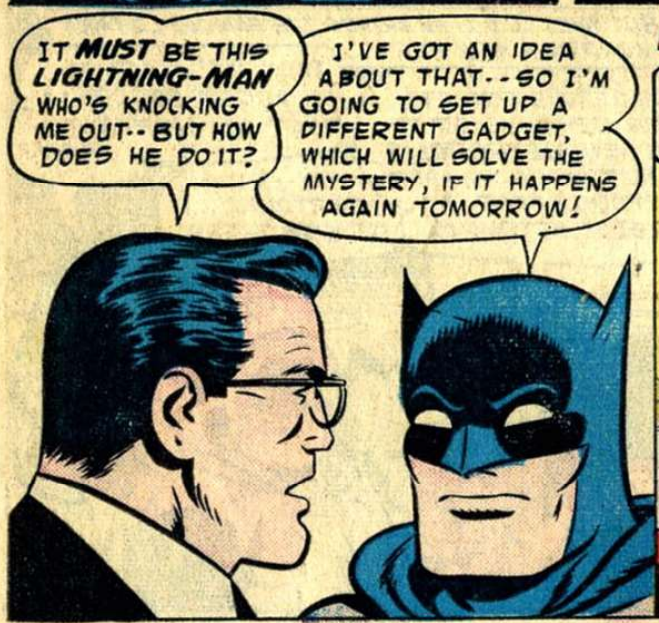
SOON, AT THE CLUB OF HEROES...
LIGHTNING-MAN'S GREAT FEATS ARE OUTSTANDING, BUT ALL OF YOU HAVE DONE FINE DEEDS-- EXCEPT SUPERMAN!
WE'LL FOLLOW LIGHTNING-MAN WHEN HE LEAVES, AND SEE IF IT'S REALLY HE WHO'S KNOCKING OUT SUPERMAN!

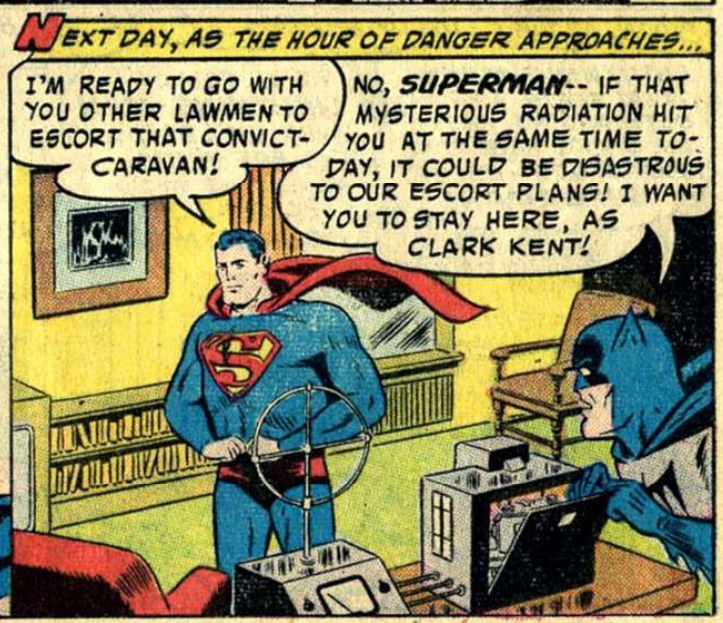
BUT WHEN LOIS LANE BRINGS THE FAMOUS LAWMEN WORD OF A NEW PERIL...
DANGEROUS CONVICTS ARE BEING MOVED TO THE NEW METROPOLIS JAIL TOMORROW-- AND THE POLICE FEAR A RESCUE ATTEMPT!
THEN WE'LL ACT AS AN ADDED ESCORT-- WON'T WE, LIGHTNING-MAN?
WHY-- ER-- CERTAINLY... I'LL BE THERE!

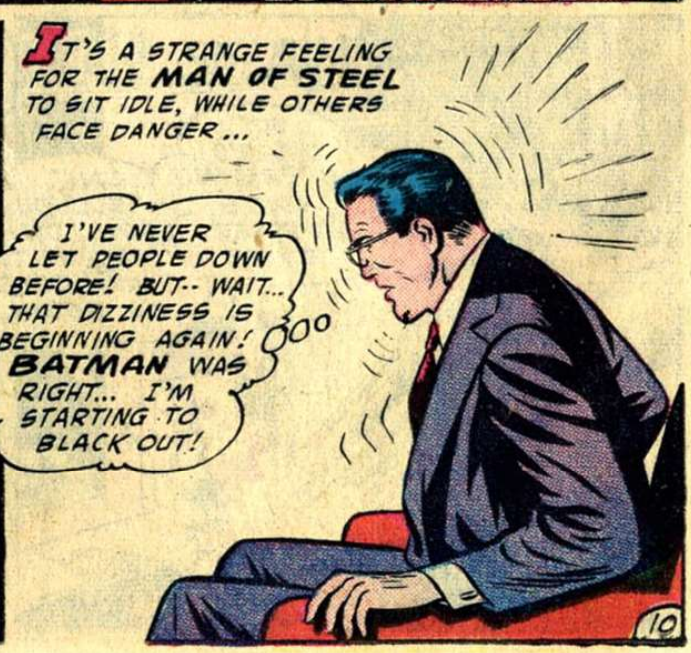

CLUB OF HER
BUT WHERE'S SUPERMAN? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?
CAN'T TELL YOU NOW, LOIS-- WE HAVE TO HURRY! COME ON, ROBIN...

THEY'RE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, RUNNING AFTER THIS NEW LIGHTNING-MAN NOW, WHILE SUPERMAN IS ALMOST FORGOTTEN!
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP LIGHTNING-MAN IN SIGHT!









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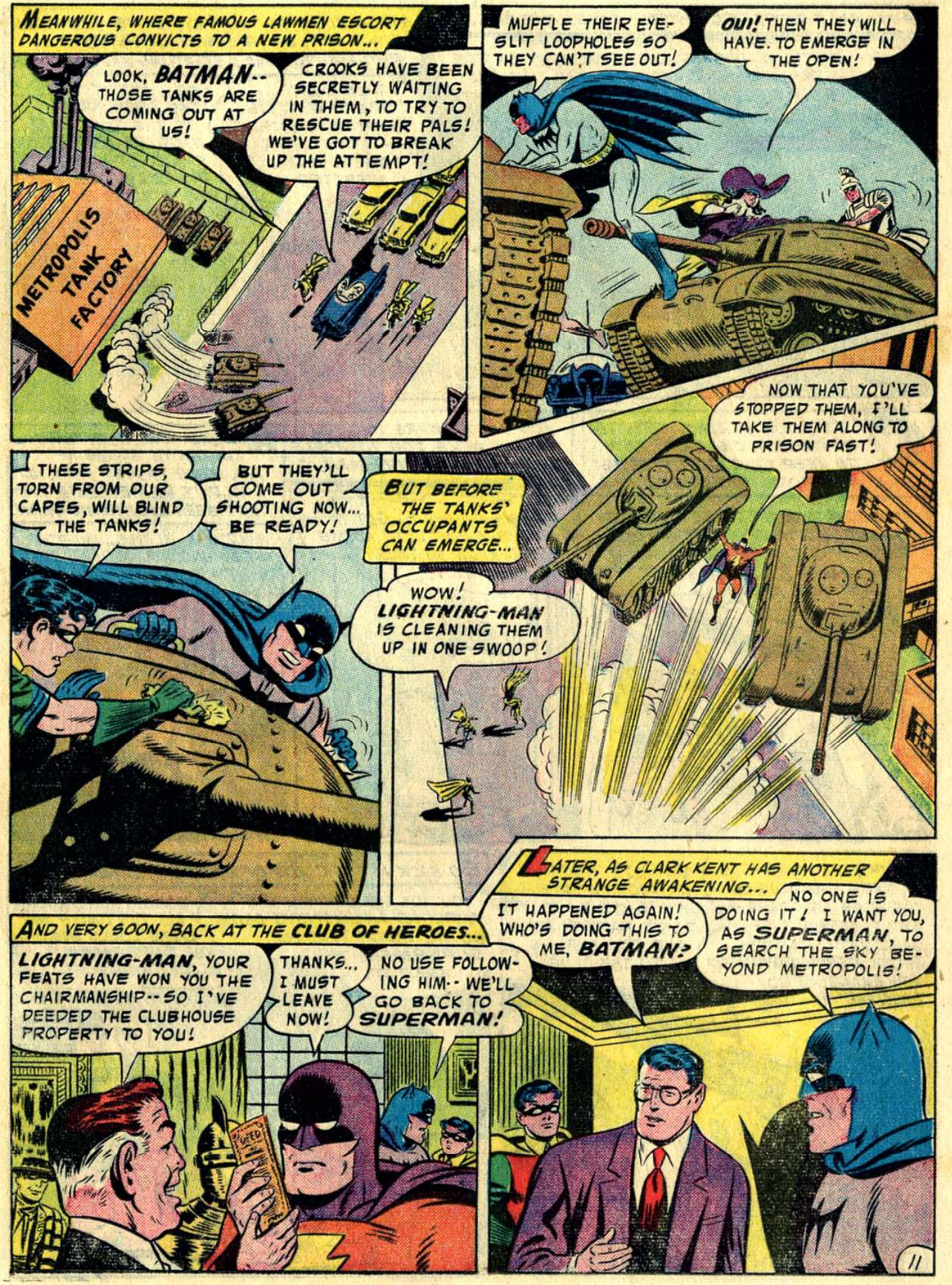
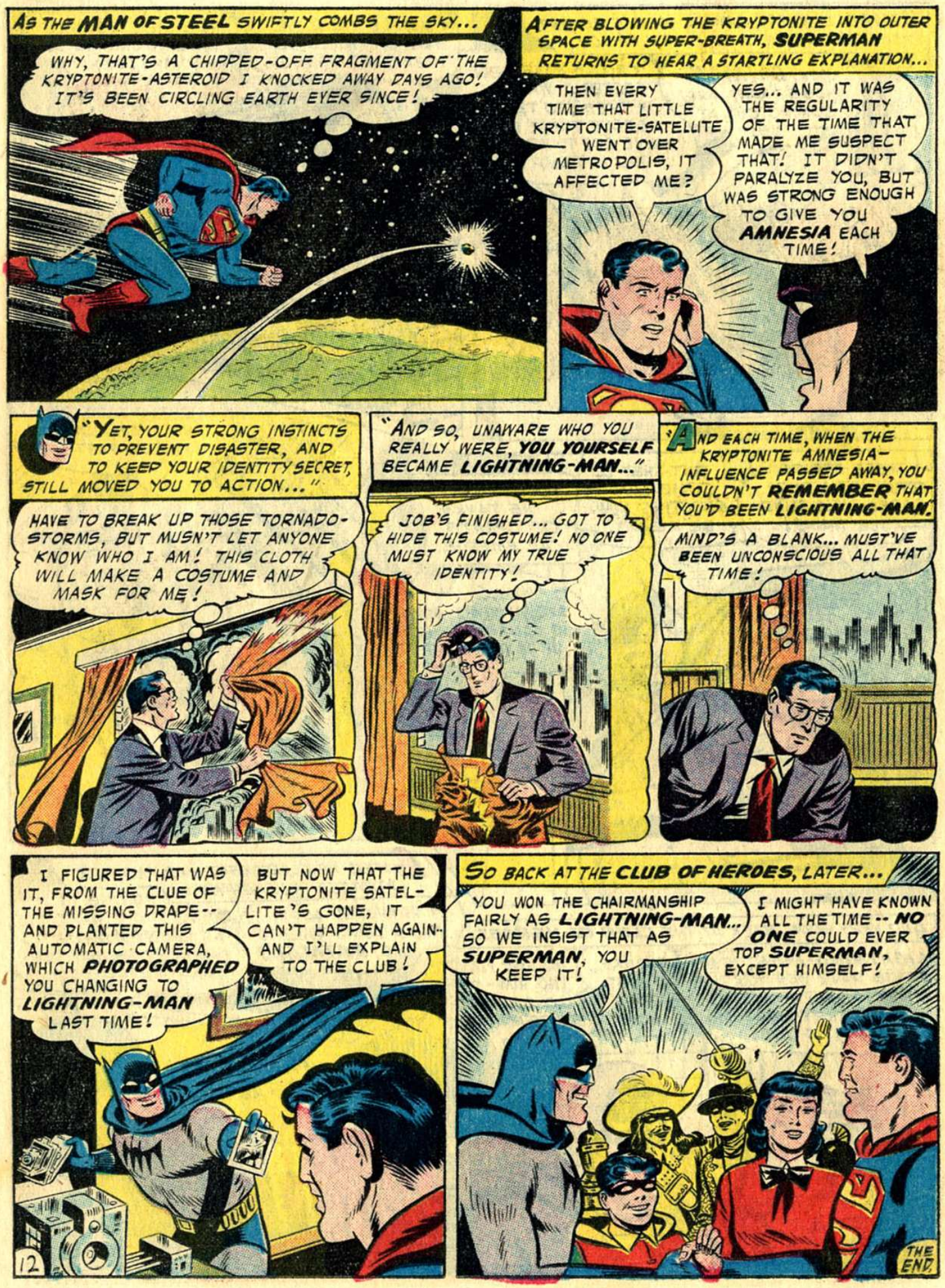

MEANWHILE, WHERE FAMOUS LAWMEN ESCORT DANGEROUS CONVICTS TO A NEW PRISON...
LOOK, BATMAN-- THOSE TANKS ARE COMING OUT AT US!
CROOKS HAVE BEEN SECRETLY WAITING IN THEM, TO TRY TO RESCUE THEIR PALS! WE'VE GOT TO BREAK UP THE ATTEMPT!
METROPOLIS TANK FACTORY
MUFFLE THEIR EYE-SLIT LOOPHOLES SO THEY CAN'T SEE OUT!
OUI! THEN THEY WILL HAVE. TO EMERGE IN THE OPEN!
NOW THAT YOU'VE STOPPED THEM, I'LL TAKE THEM ALONG TO PRISON FAST!
THESE STRIPS, TORN FROM OUR CAPES, WILL BLIND THE TANKS!
BUT THEY'LL COME OUT SHOOTING NOW... BE READY!
BUT BEFORE THE TANKS' OCCUPANTS CAN EMERGE...
WOW! LIGHTNING-MAN IS CLEANING THEM UP IN ONE SWOOP!
LATER, AS CLARK KENT HAS ANOTHER STRANGE AWAKENING...
IT HAPPENED AGAIN! WHO'S DOING THIS TO ME, BATMAN?
NO ONE IS DOING IT! I WANT YOU, AS SUPERMAN, TO SEARCH THE SKY BEYOND METROPOLIS!
AND VERY SOON, BACK AT THE CLUB OF HEROES...
LIGHTNING-MAN, YOUR FEATS HAVE WON YOU THE CHAIRMANSHIP-- SO I'VE DEEDED THE CLUBHOUSE PROPERTY TO YOU!
THANKS... I MUST LEAVE NOW!
NO USE FOLLOWING HIM-- WE'LL GO BACK TO SUPERMAN!


AS THE MAN OF STEEL SWIFTLY COMBS THE SKY...
WHY, THAT'S A CHIPPED-OFF FRAGMENT OF THE KRYPTONITE-ASTEROID I KNOCKED AWAY DAYS AGO! IT'S BEEN CIRCLING EARTH EVER SINCE!
AFTER BLOWING THE KRYPTONITE INTO OUTER SPACE WITH SUPER-BREATH, SUPERMAN RETURNS TO HEAR A STARTLING EXPLANATION...
THEN EVERY TIME THAT LITTLE KRYPTONITE-SATELLITE WENT OVER METROPOLIS, IT AFFECTED ME?
YES... AND IT WAS THE REGULARITY OF THE TIME THAT MADE ME SUSPECT THAT! IT DIDN'T PARALYZE YOU, BUT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU AMNESIA EACH TIME!
"YET, YOUR STRONG INSTINCTS TO PREVENT DISASTER, AND TO KEEP YOUR IDENTITY SECRET, STILL MOVED YOU TO ACTION..."
HAVE TO BREAK UP THOSE TORNADO-STORMS, BUT MUSN'T LET ANYONE KNOW WHO I AM! THIS CLOTH WILL MAKE A COSTUME AND MASK FOR ME!
"AND SO, UNAWARE WHO YOU REALLY WERE, YOU YOURSELF BECAME LIGHTNING-MAN..."
JOB'S FINISHED... GOT TO HIDE THIS COSTUME! NO ONE MUST KNOW MY TRUE IDENTITY!
AND EACH TIME, WHEN THE KRYPTONITE AMNESIA-INFLUENCE PASSED AWAY, YOU COULDN'T REMEMBER THAT YOU'D BEEN LIGHTNING-MAN.
MIND'S A BLANK... MUST'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS ALL THAT TIME!
I FIGURED THAT WAS IT, FROM THE CLUE OF THE MISSING DRAPE-- AND PLANTED THIS AUTOMATIC CAMERA, WHICH PHOTOGRAPHED YOU CHANGING TO LIGHTNING-MAN LAST TIME!
BUT NOW THAT THE KRYPTONITE SATELLITE'S GONE, IT CAN'T HAPPEN AGAIN-- AND I'LL EXPLAIN TO THE CLUB!
SO BACK AT THE CLUB OF HEROES, LATER...
YOU WON THE CHAIRMANSHIP FAIRLY AS LIGHTNING-MAN... SO WE INSIST THAT AS SUPERMAN, YOU KEEP IT!
I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN ALL THE TIME -- NO ONE COULD EVER TOP SUPERMAN, EXCEPT HIMSELF!
THE END

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HIGH OVER GOTHAM CITY, A SEARCHLIGHT ILLUMINATES THE NIGHT SKY...
LOOK! THE SIGNAL FROM POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS!
THAT MEANS THEY NEED THE HELP OF BATMAN AND ROBIN TO STOP A CRIME!
BUT, INSTEAD OF THE FAMILIAR BAT-SIGNAL, A STRANGE NEW EMBLEM BEAMS FORTH...
WH-WHAT'S THAT?
A STAR-SIGNAL OF SOME SORT!
AND IN ANSWER TO THE SIGNAL, INSTEAD OF THE BAT-PLANE, A FLYING VEHICLE SHAPED LIKE A STAR SHOOTS ACROSS THE SKIES...
SOON AFTER, A LADDER DROPS FROM THE REMOTE-CONTROLLED STAR-PLANE, AND...
LOOK! IT'S ROBIN-- AND SOME OTHER GUY! ROBIN'S GOT A NEW PARTNER!
LET'S TAKE THEM, STARMAN!
STARMAN? THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME... I'M LAMMING!
AS THE BANDITS TRY TO ESCAPE, STARMAN'S HAND DIPS INTO A HOLSTER-POUCH...
THESE STAR-DARTS SHOULD STOP THEM EASILY ENOUGH...

WITH UNERRING ACCURACY, THE SHARP MISSILES REACH THEIR TARGETS...
HUH? I CAN'T GET MY SLEEVE LOOSE!
MY COAT'S CAUGHT!

LATER, AFTER DROPPING THE CAPTURED BANDITS AT THE POLICE STATION, THE STAR-PLANE FLIES TO ITS SECRET HANGAR... THE STAR-LOFT!
ROBIN, WE'RE HOME!

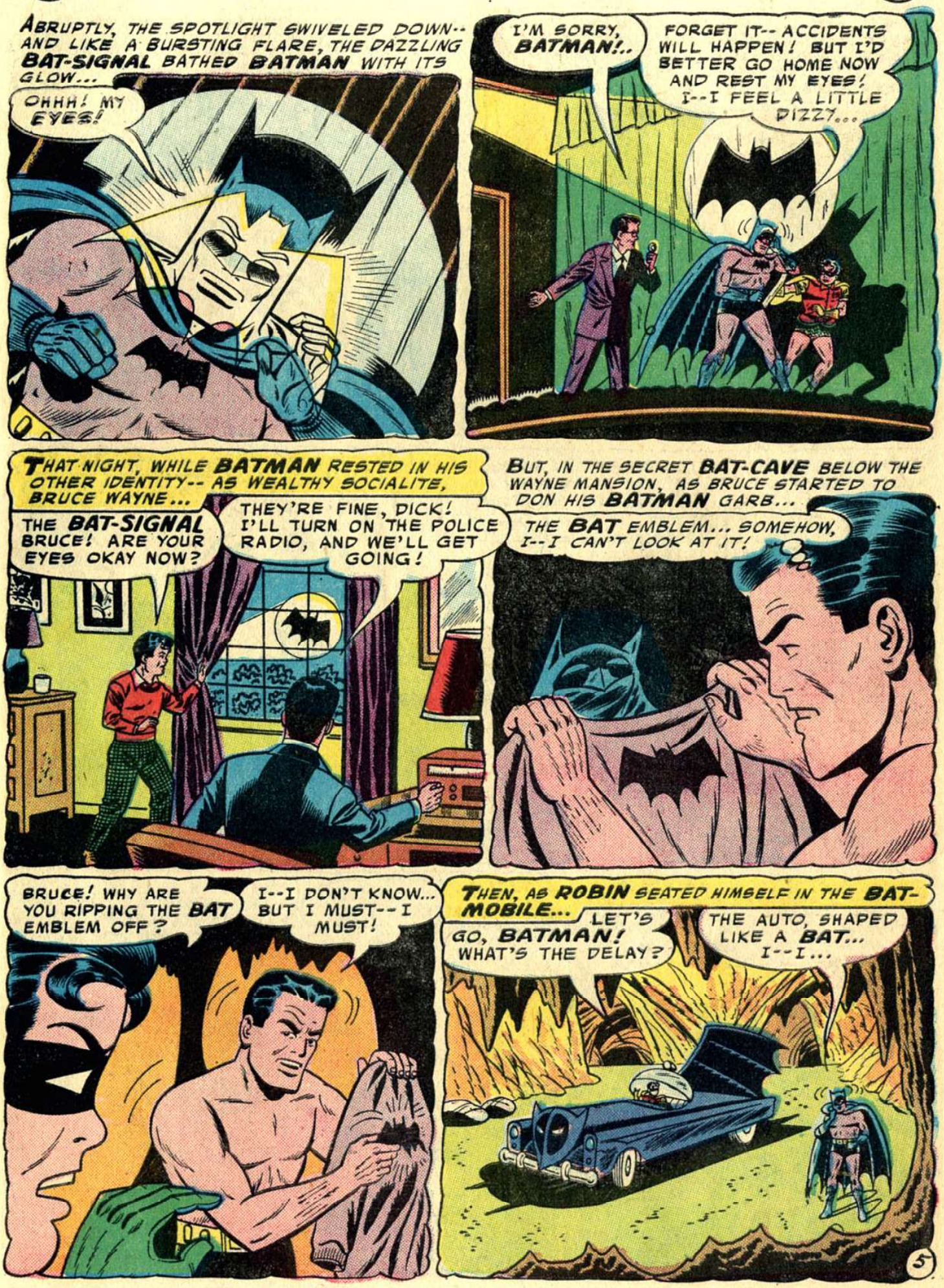
INSIDE THEIR SECRET LAIR, ROBIN REMOVES HIS MASK, REVEALING THE FAMILIAR FACE OF YOUNG DICK GRAYSON...
NOT A BAD NIGHT'S WORK, EH, STARMAN? YOU DID AS WELL AS BATMAN EVER COULD!

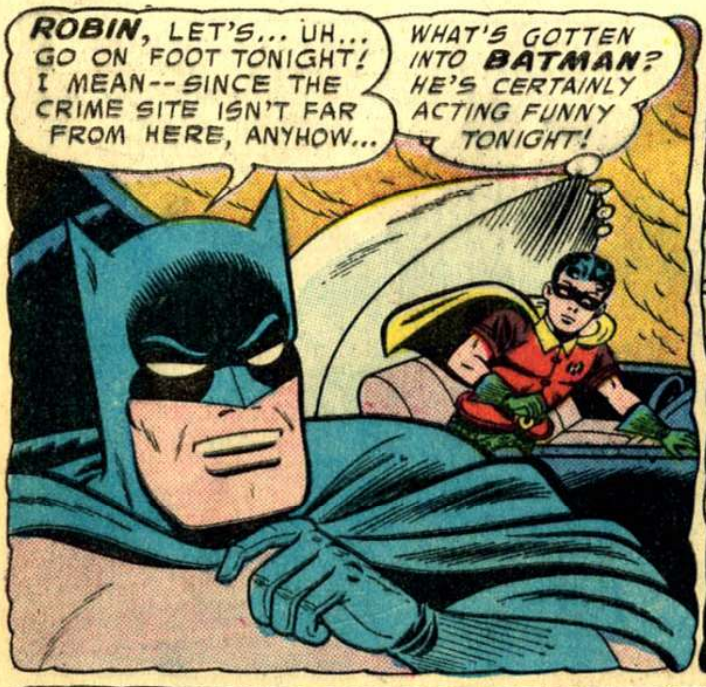
AND THEN STARMAN REMOVES HIS COWL, TO REVEAL THE FACE OF--BRUCE WAYNE!
IT STILL SEEMS STRANGE NOT TO BE WEARING MY USUAL BATMAN COWL-- BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE!

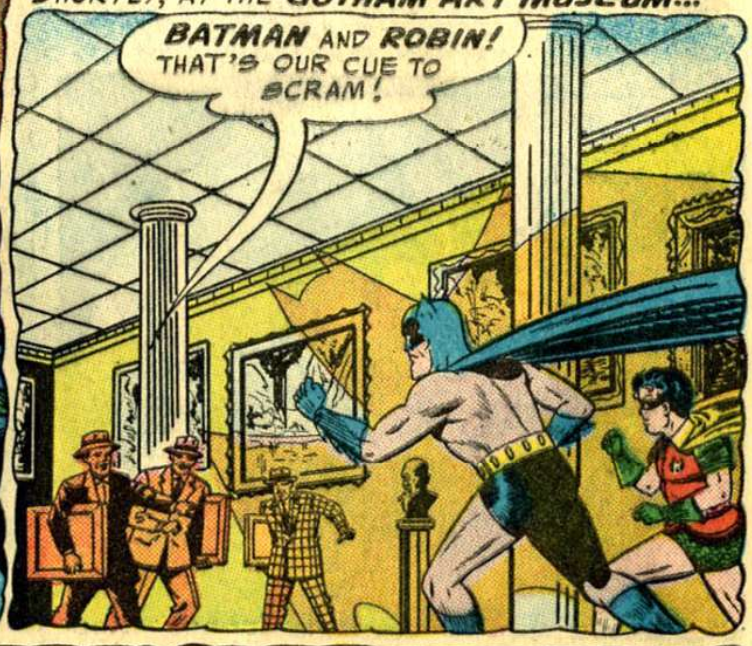
I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO SEEING YOU IN THIS NEW COSTUME, BRUCE! ≡SIGH≡ IF ONLY YOU COULD...
NO, DICK! MY CAREER AS BATMAN IS FINISHED!

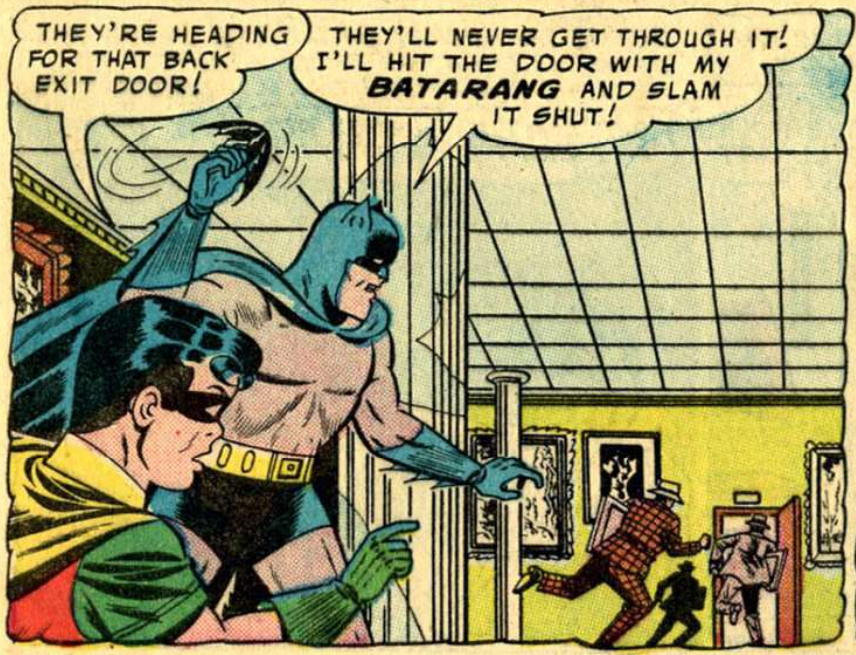
I CAN NEVER WEAR THE BATMAN COSTUME AGAIN!
WHY? WHAT COULD HAVE MADE BRUCE WAYNE ABANDON THE ACTION GARB THAT MADE HIM THE MOST FAMOUS OF CRIME-FIGHTERS? FOR THE ANSWER, WE MUST GO BACK A FEW DAYS...

...TO A MEETING OF THE UNDERWORLD IN THE SECRET LABORATORY OF A RENEGADE SCIENTIST NAMED PROFESSOR MILO...
OTHER MEN HAVE FAILED AT CRIME BECAUSE OF BATMAN-- BUT I SHALL SUCCEED IN DEFEATING BATMAN THROUGH A PHOBIA!
A PHOBIA? WHAT'S THAT, MILO?
A PHOBIA IS A FEAR OF SOMETHING--A FEAR THAT IS PARALYZING, WILL-DESTROYING! A MAN MAY HAVE AGORAPHOBIA-- A FEAR OF CROWDS... ANOTHER MAY HAVE CLAUSTROPHOBIA-- A FEAR OF ENCLOSED PLACES! THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF PHOBIAS!..
FOR EXAMPLE, NAPOLEON WAS DEATHLY AFRAID OF CATS! BUT BATMAN IS AFRAID OF NOTHING! THEREFORE, I WILL GIVE HIM A FEAR-- AN ARTIFICIAL PHOBIA WITH THIS!
AFTER MANY YEARS OF RESEARCH, I'VE DEVELOPED A SUBSTANCE SO PRECIOUS IT CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE-- A SUBSTANCE THAT WILL MAKE BATMAN HELPLESS TO STOP OUR MARCH OF CRIME!
NEXT DAY, AT A CHARITY BENEFIT WHERE BATMAN WAS AN HONORED GUEST...
AND NOW OUR OWN "BAT-SIGNAL" ANNOUNCES THE APPEARANCE OF OUR GUEST SPEAKER-- BATMAN!
AT THAT MOMENT, INSIDE THE PROJECTION BOOTH...
ALL SET, BOSS! NOBODY KNOWS I TOOK THE REAL PROJECTIONIST'S PLACE!
GOOD! I'VE ALREADY PAINTED THE "PHOBIA" LIQUID ON THE SPOTLIGHT LENS... NOW-- FOCUS ITS RAYS ON BATMAN!


ABRUPTLY, THE SPOTLIGHT SWIVELED DOWN-- AND LIKE A BURSTING FLARE, THE DAZZLING BAT-SIGNAL BATHED BATMAN WITH ITS GLOW...
OHHH! MY EYES!
I'M SORRY, BATMAN!..
FORGET IT-- ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN! BUT I'D BETTER GO HOME NOW AND REST MY EYES! I--I FEEL A LITTLE DIZZY...
THAT NIGHT, WHILE BATMAN RESTED IN HIS OTHER IDENTITY-- AS WEALTHY SOCIALITE, BRUCE WAYNE...
THE BAT-SIGNAL BRUCE! ARE YOUR EYES OKAY NOW?
THEY'RE FINE, DICK! I'LL TURN ON THE POLICE RADIO, AND WE'LL GET GOING!
BUT, IN THE SECRET BAT-CAVE BELOW THE WAYNE MANSION, AS BRUCE STARTED TO DON HIS BATMAN GARB...
THE BAT EMBLEM... SOMEHOW, I--I CAN'T LOOK AT IT!
BRUCE! WHY ARE YOU RIPPING THE BAT EMBLEM OFF?
I--I DON'T KNOW... BUT I MUST--I MUST!
THEN, AS ROBIN SEATED HIMSELF IN THE BAT-MOBILE...
LET'S GO, BATMAN! WHAT'S THE DELAY?
THE AUTO, SHAPED LIKE A BAT... I--I...


ROBIN, LET'S... UH... GO ON FOOT TONIGHT! I MEAN--SINCE THE CRIME SITE ISN'T FAR FROM HERE, ANYHOW...
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO BATMAN? HE'S CERTAINLY ACTING FUNNY TONIGHT!


SHORTLY, AT THE GOTHAM ART MUSEUM...
BATMAN AND ROBIN! THAT'S OUR CUE TO SCRAM!


THEY'RE HEADING FOR THAT BACK EXIT DOOR!
THEY'LL NEVER GET THROUGH IT! I'LL HIT THE DOOR WITH MY BATARANG AND SLAM IT SHUT!

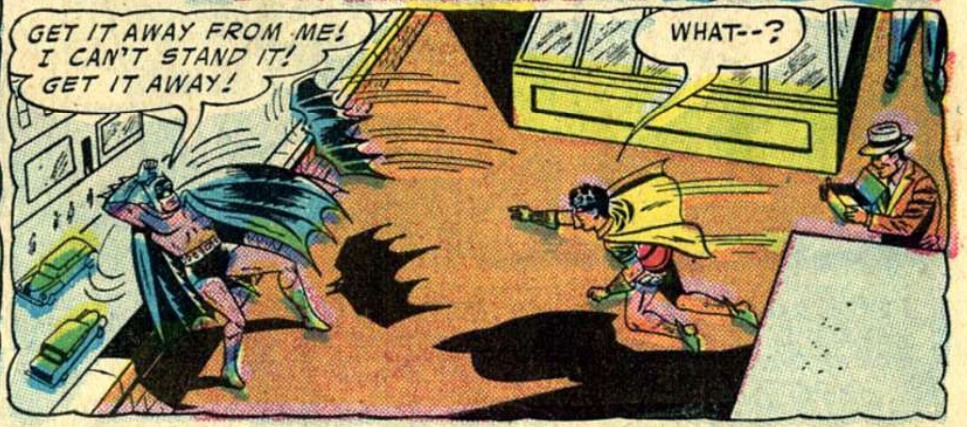
BUT SUDDENLY, AS BATMAN RAISED THE BATARANG FOR THE THROW...
OH-H-H...

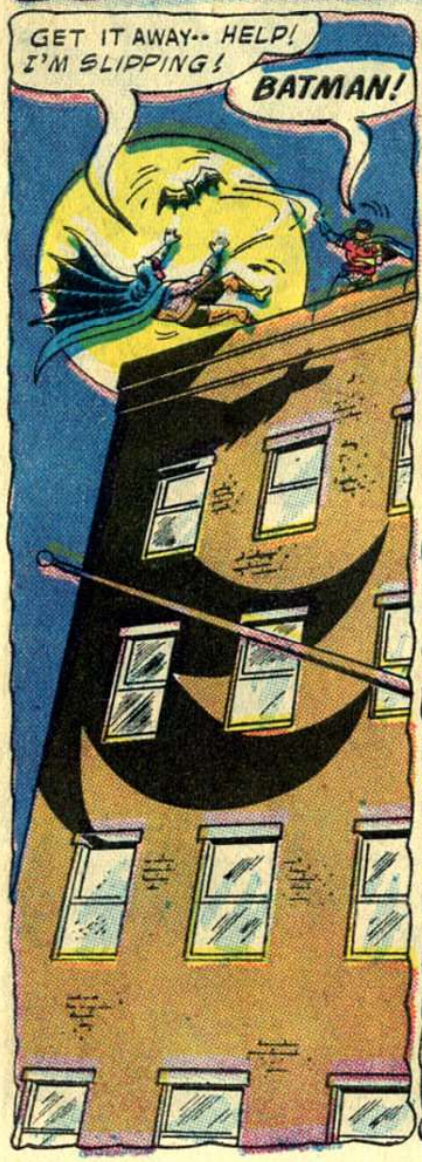
BEFORE BATMAN COULD RECOVER HIS POISE, THE BANDITS WERE GONE...
TOUGH BREAK! HERE'S YOUR-- BATMAN! WHAT'S WRONG?
TH-THE BATARANG... TAKE IT AWAY... PLEASE--TAKE IT AWAY!

LATER...
YOUR PHOBIA TRICK WORKED, MILO! BATMAN DROPPED THE BATARANG LIKE A HOT POTATO... HA, HA!
YES--I'VE GIVEN HIM AN IRONIC PHOBIA... I'VE MADE BATMAN AFRAID OF BATS!

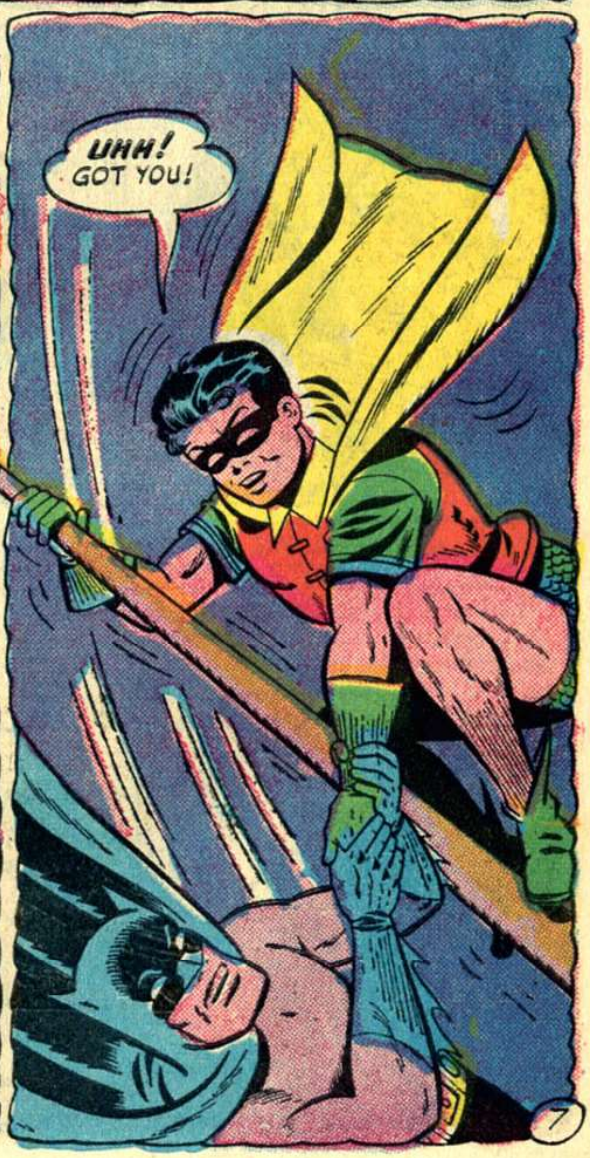
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN AGAIN ANSWERED A POLICE CALL...
HERE THEY COME AGAIN!
WHAT'S THE RUSH? WE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

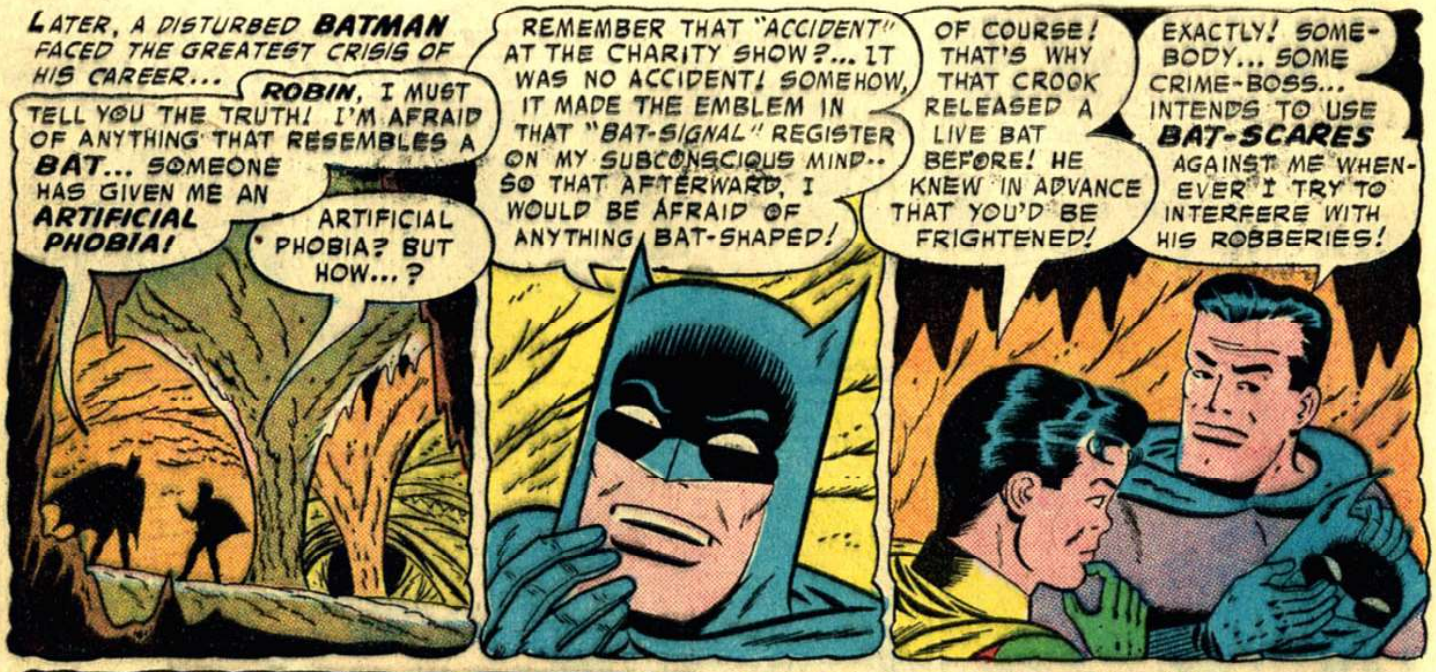
AS BATMAN CLOSED IN, ONE BANDIT SUDDENLY OPENED A SMALL BOX, AND...
SURPRISE!
YI-I-I! A BAT! A BAT!

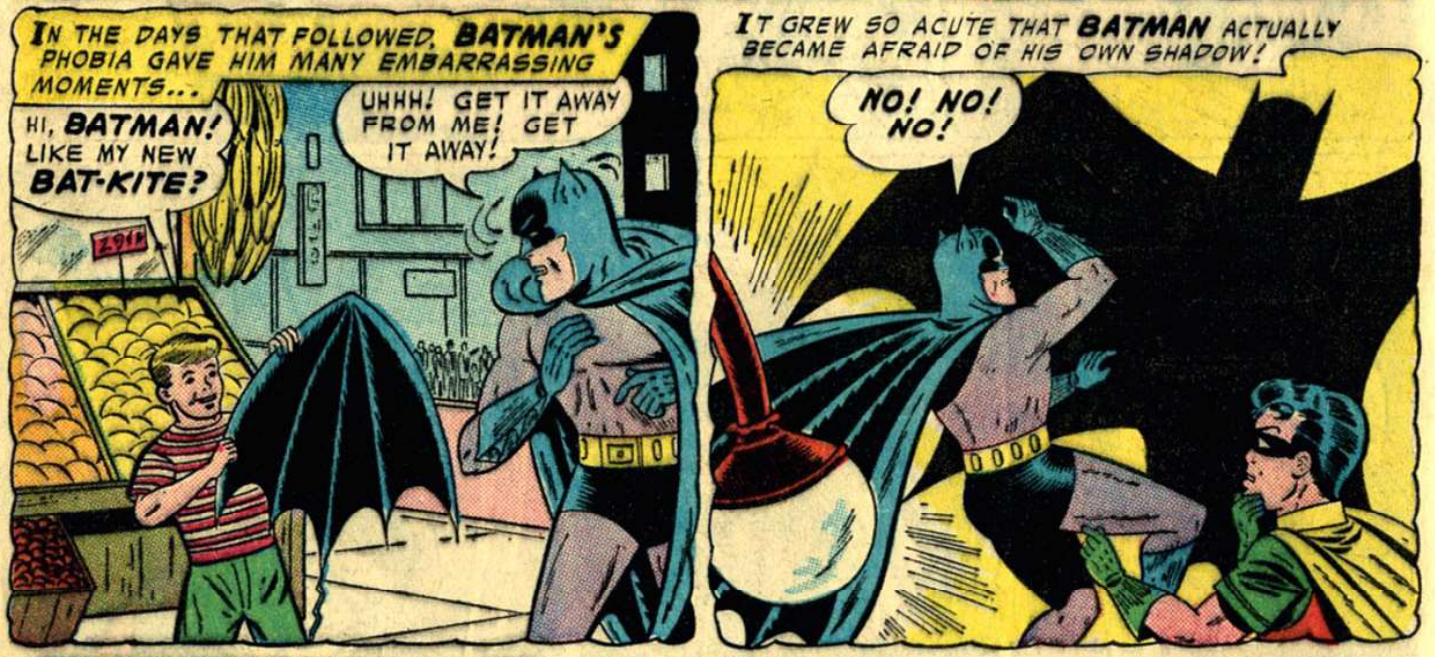

GET IT AWAY FROM ME! I CAN'T STAND IT! GET IT AWAY!
WHAT--?

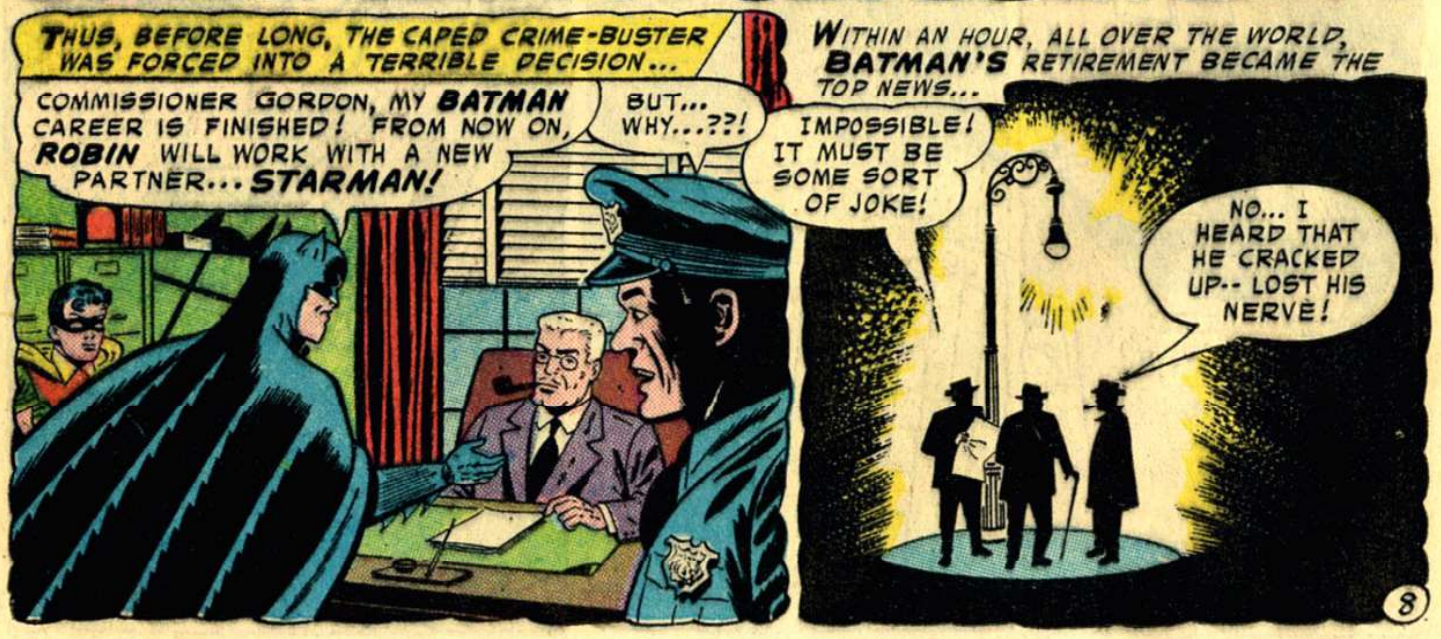

GET IT AWAY-- HELP! I'M SLIPPING!
BATMAN!

ONLY ONE WAY TO CATCH HIM-- THAT FLAG-POLE...

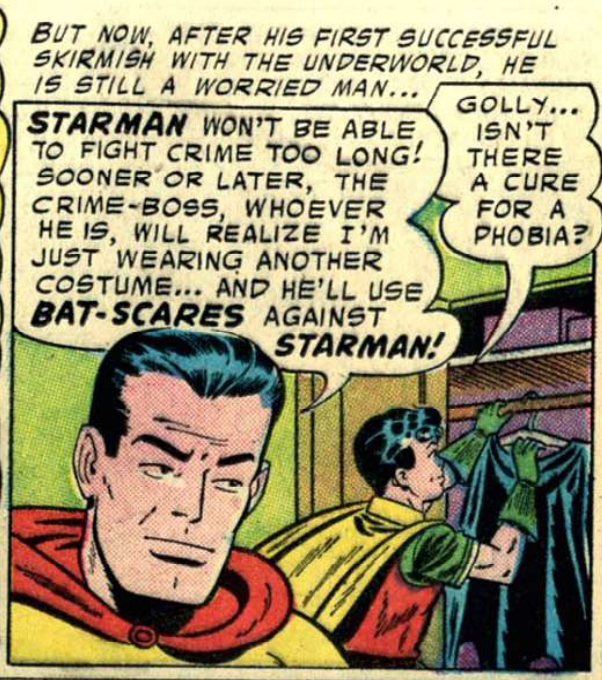

UHH! GOT YOU!


LATER, A DISTURBED BATMAN FACED THE GREATEST CRISIS OF HIS CAREER...
ROBIN, I MUST TELL YOU THE TRUTH! I'M AFRAID OF ANYTHING THAT RESEMBLES A BAT... SOMEONE HAS GIVEN ME AN ARTIFICIAL PHOBIA!
ARTIFICIAL PHOBIA? BUT HOW...?
REMEMBER THAT "ACCIDENT" AT THE CHARITY SHOW?... IT WAS NO ACCIDENT! SOMEHOW, IT MADE THE EMBLEM IN THAT "BAT-SIGNAL" REGISTER ON MY SUBCONSCIOUS MIND-- SO THAT AFTERWARD, I WOULD BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING BAT-SHAPED!
OF COURSE! THAT'S WHY THAT CROOK RELEASED A LIVE BAT BEFORE! HE KNEW IN ADVANCE THAT YOU'D BE FRIGHTENED!
EXACTLY! SOMEBODY... SOME CRIME-BOSS... INTENDS TO USE BAT-SCARES AGAINST ME WHENEVER I TRY TO INTERFERE WITH HIS ROBBERIES!


IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, BATMAN'S PHOBIA GAVE HIM MANY EMBARRASSING MOMENTS...
HI, BATMAN! LIKE MY NEW BAT-KITE?
UHHH! GET IT AWAY FROM ME! GET IT AWAY!
IT GREW SO ACUTE THAT BATMAN ACTUALLY BECAME AFRAID OF HIS OWN SHADOW!
NO! NO! NO!


THUS, BEFORE LONG, THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER WAS FORCED INTO A TERRIBLE DECISION...
COMMISSIONER GORDON, MY BATMAN CAREER IS FINISHED! FROM NOW ON, ROBIN WILL WORK WITH A NEW PARTNER... STARMAN!
BUT... WHY...??!
WITHIN AN HOUR, ALL OVER THE WORLD, BATMAN'S RETIREMENT BECAME THE TOP NEWS...
IMPOSSIBLE! IT MUST BE SOME SORT OF JOKE!
NO... I HEARD THAT HE CRACKED UP-- LOST HIS NERVE!

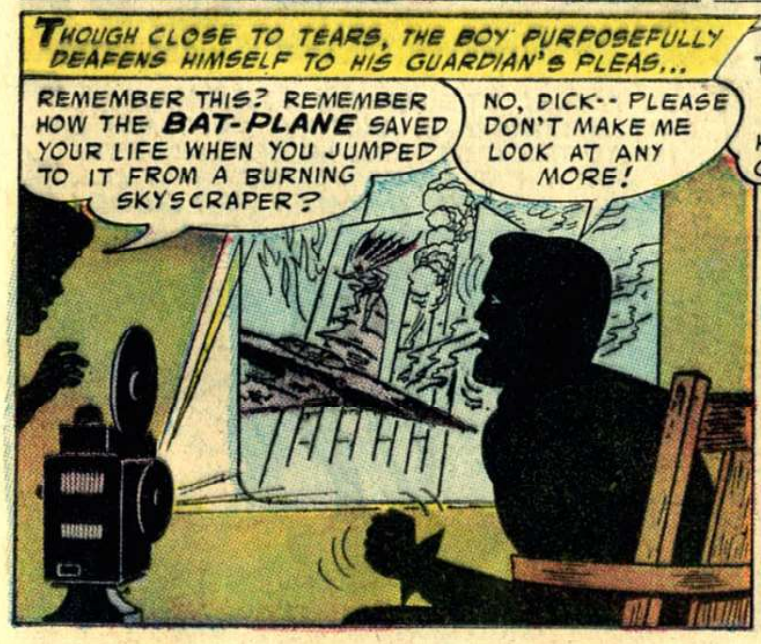
AND SO IT CAME ABOUT THAT BATMAN WAS FORCED TO CLOAK HIMSELF IN THE NEW IDENTITY OF STARMAN!

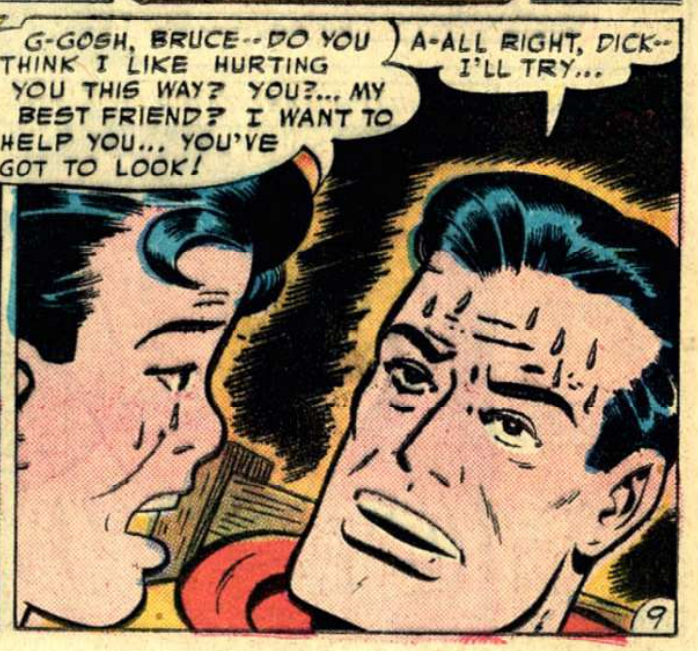

BUT NOW, AFTER HIS FIRST SUCCESSFUL SKIRMISH WITH THE UNDERWORLD, HE IS STILL A WORRIED MAN...
STARMAN WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT CRIME TOO LONG! SOONER OR LATER, THE CRIME-BOSS, WHOEVER HE IS, WILL REALIZE I'M JUST WEARING ANOTHER COSTUME... AND HE'LL USE BAT-SCARES AGAINST STARMAN!
GOLLY... ISN'T THERE A CURE FOR A PHOBIA?

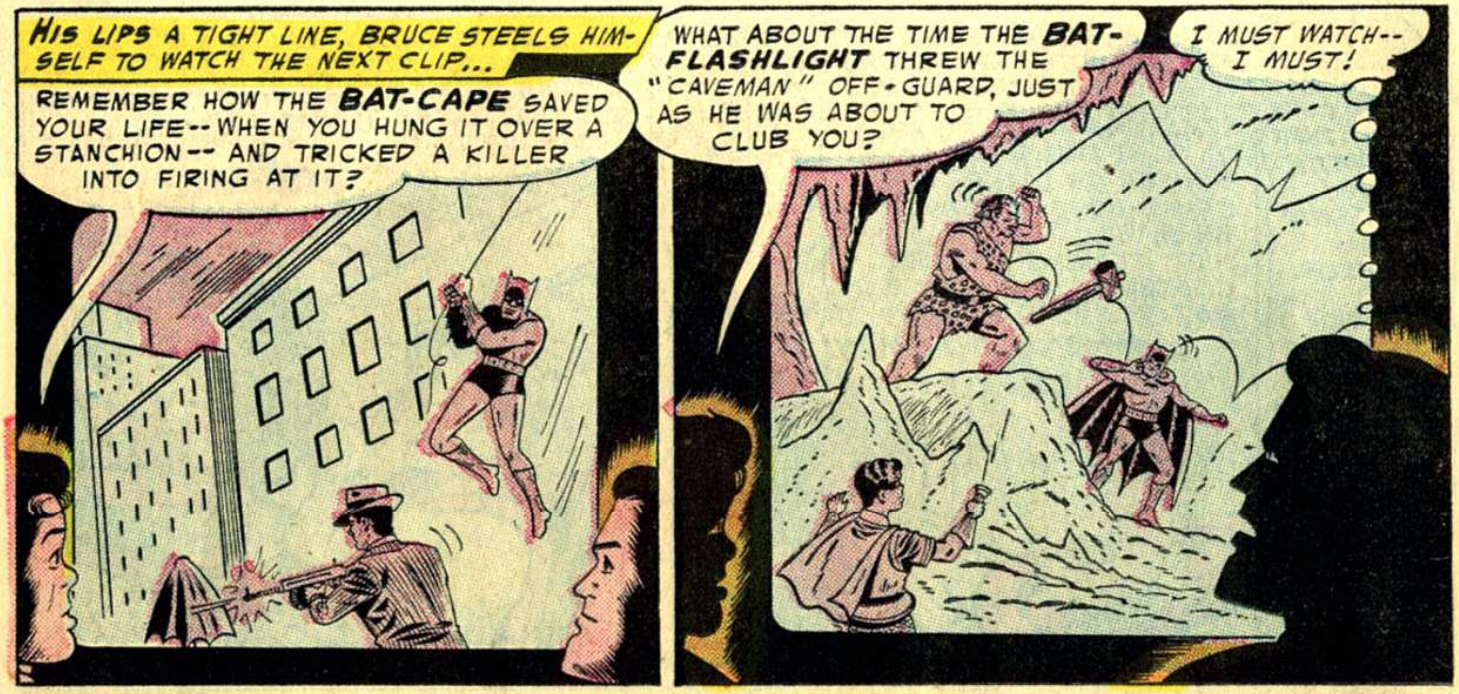
YES... IF THE PATIENT CAN BE MADE TO REALIZE THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! BUT THAT TAKES TIME-- LOTS OF TIME...
HMM--THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED...

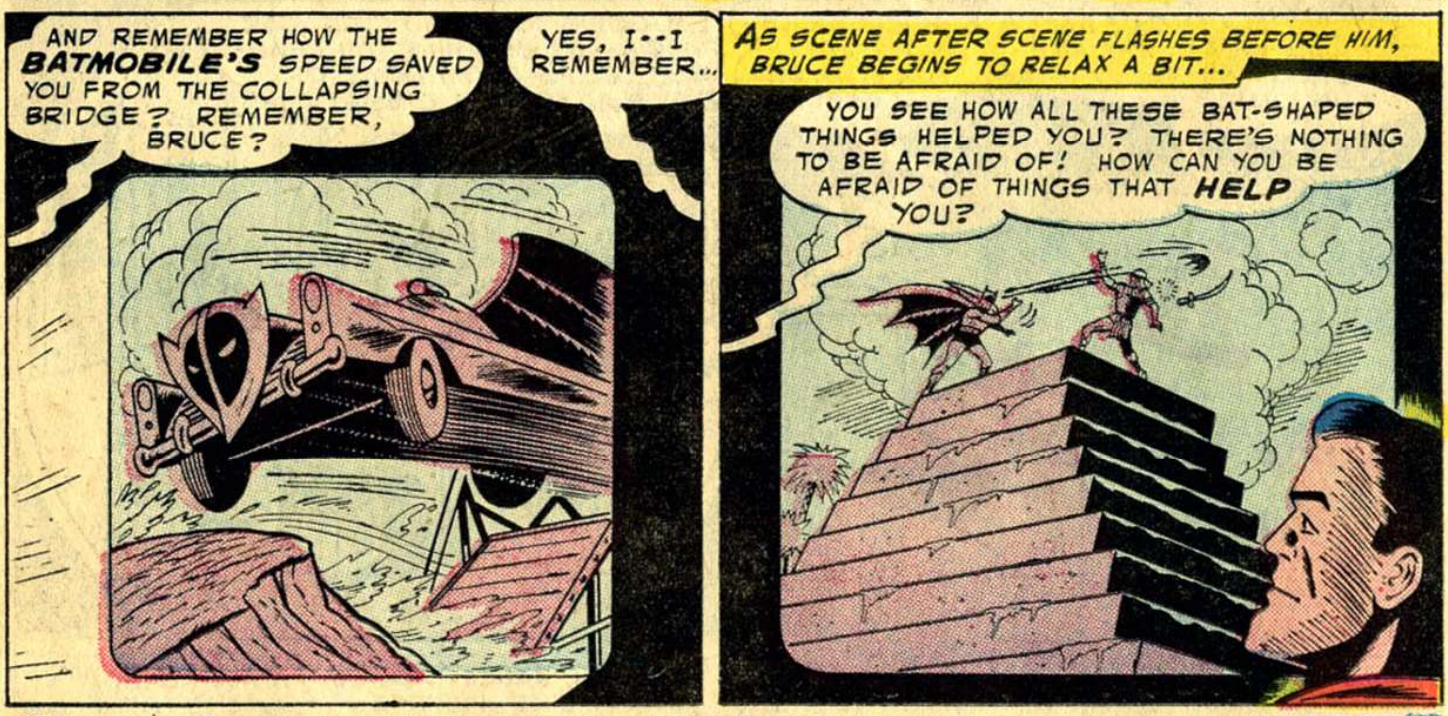
SUDDENLY...
DICK! WHAT'S THE IDEA? WHY ARE YOU STRAPPING ME TO THIS CHAIR?
SORRY, BRUCE-- BUT THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

I'M GOING TO TRY TO CURE YOUR PHOBIA-- BY SHOWING YOU NEWS-REEL CLIPS FROM SOME OF BATMAN'S PAST CASES!
YOU MEAN... I'LL HAVE TO LOOK AT BAT-SHAPES? NO, DICK... DON'T! PLEASE... PLEASE!

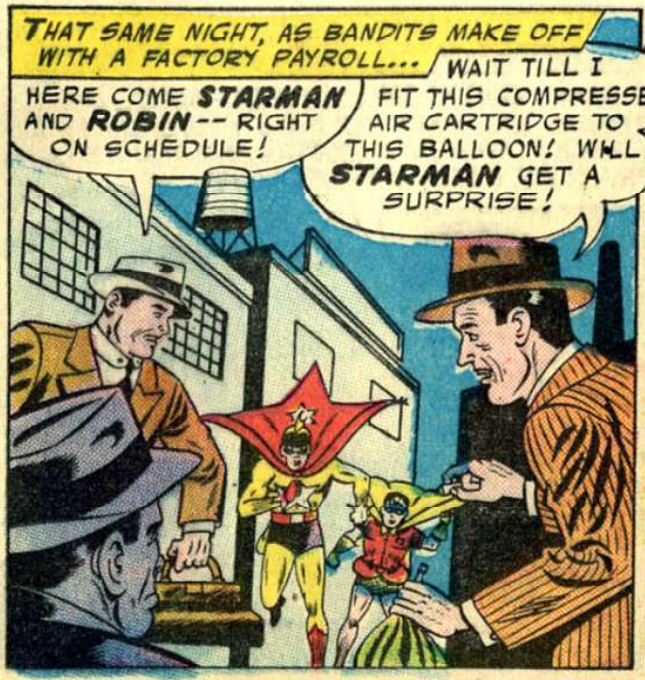

THOUGH CLOSE TO TEARS, THE BOY PURPOSEFULLY DEAFENS HIMSELF TO HIS GUARDIAN'S PLEAS...
REMEMBER THIS? REMEMBER HOW THE BAT-PLANE SAVED YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU JUMPED TO IT FROM A BURNING SKYSCRAPER?
NO, DICK-- PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME LOOK AT ANY MORE!

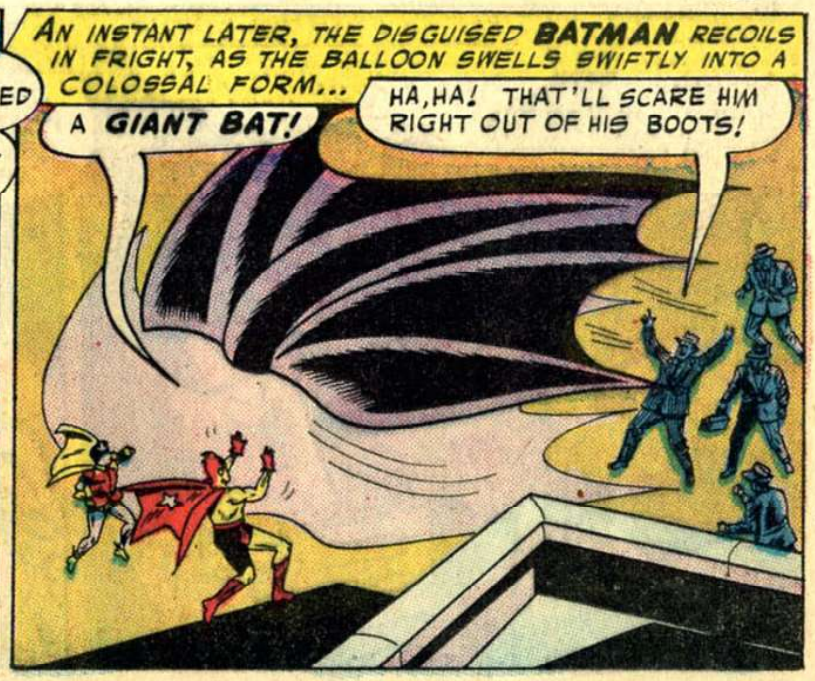

G-GOSH, BRUCE-- DO YOU THINK I LIKE HURTING YOU THIS WAY? YOU?... MY BEST FRIEND? I WANT TO HELP YOU... YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK!
A-ALL RIGHT, DICK-- I'LL TRY...


HIS LIPS A TIGHT LINE, BRUCE STEELS HIMSELF TO WATCH THE NEXT CLIP...
REMEMBER HOW THE BAT-CAPE SAVED YOUR LIFE -- WHEN YOU HUNG IT OVER A STANCHION -- AND TRICKED A KILLER INTO FIRING AT IT?
WHAT ABOUT THE TIME THE BAT-FLASHLIGHT THREW THE "CAVEMAN" OFF-GUARD, JUST AS HE WAS ABOUT TO CLUB YOU?
I MUST WATCH -- I MUST!


AND REMEMBER HOW THE BATMOBILE'S SPEED SAVED YOU FROM THE COLLAPSING BRIDGE? REMEMBER, BRUCE?
YES, I -- I REMEMBER...
AS SCENE AFTER SCENE FLASHES BEFORE HIM, BRUCE BEGINS TO RELAX A BIT...
YOU SEE HOW ALL THESE BAT-SHAPED THINGS HELPED YOU? THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! HOW CAN YOU BE AFRAID OF THINGS THAT HELP YOU?

BUT WILL BRUCE BE CURED IN TIME? FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT...
IN MILO'S LABORATORY...
YOU FOOLS! IT'S OBVIOUS STARMAN IS ONLY BATMAN IN ANOTHER COSTUME! BAH-- TRY TO TRICK ME, WILL HE? WELL, I'VE GOT A BAT-SCARE PLANNED THAT WILL FINISH BATMAN FOR GOOD!

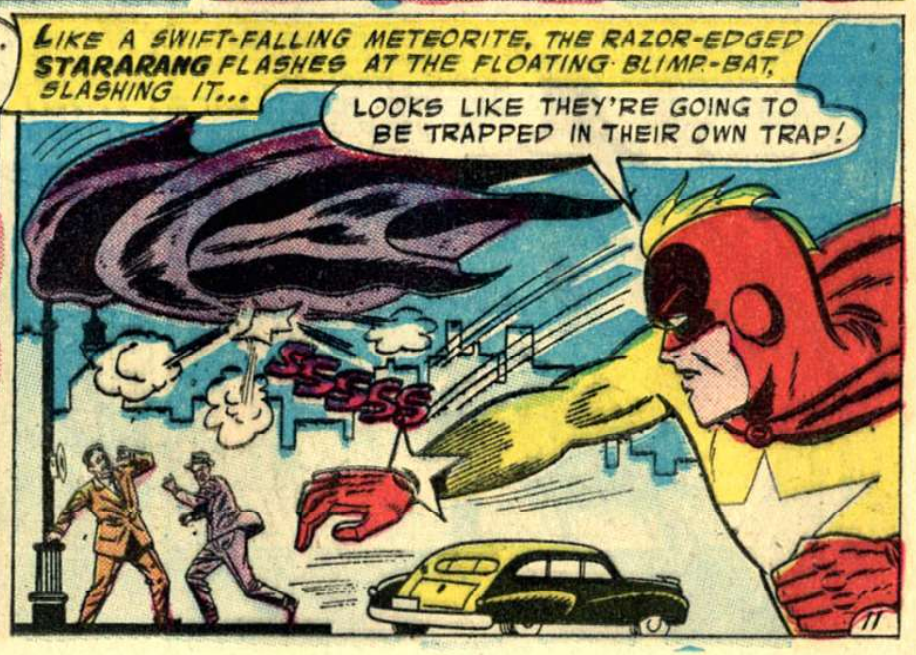

THAT SAME NIGHT, AS BANDITS MAKE OFF WITH A FACTORY PAYROLL...
HERE COME STARMAN AND ROBIN -- RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!
WAIT TILL I FIT THIS COMPRESSED AIR CARTRIDGE TO THIS BALLOON! WILL STARMAN GET A SURPRISE!


AN INSTANT LATER, THE DISGUISED BATMAN RECOILS IN FRIGHT, AS THE BALLOON SWELLS SWIFTLY INTO A COLOSSAL FORM...
A GIANT BAT!
HA, HA! THAT'LL SCARE HIM RIGHT OUT OF HIS BOOTS!

BUT, GETTING A GRIP ON HIS SCREAMING NERVES, THE MASKED LAWMAN LEAPS ATOP THE BLIMP-SIZED "BAT," AND...
GIVE THE BALLOON A HARD PUSH, ROBIN-- AND HOP ABOARD!

YI-I-I! LOOK! H-HE'S RIDIN' THE BAT-BALLOON!
THEN STARMAN CAN'T BE BATMAN!

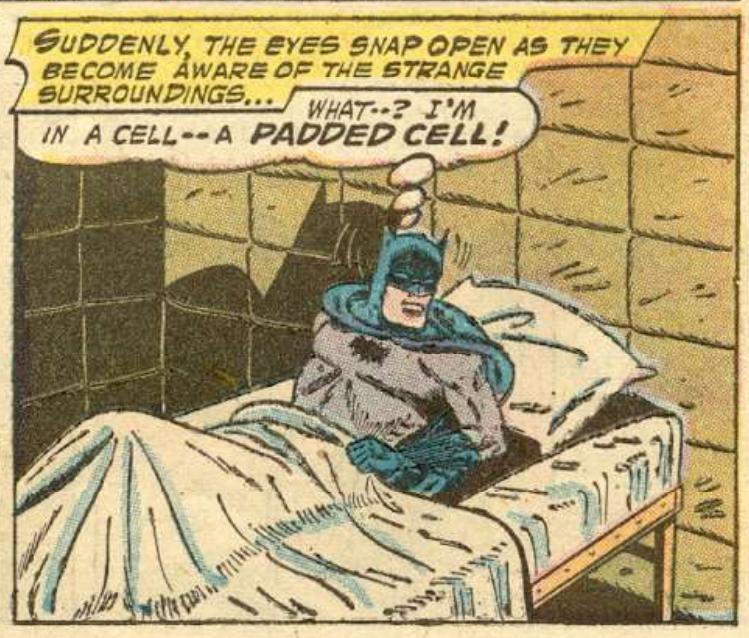
THE OTHER TWO ARE GETTING AWAY, STARMAN!
THEY WON'T GET FAR... I'LL STOP THEM WITH A STARARANG!


LIKE A SWIFT-FALLING METEORITE, THE RAZOR-EDGED STARARANG FLASHES AT THE FLOATING BLIMP-BAT, SLASHING IT...
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO BE TRAPPED IN THEIR OWN TRAP!
SSSSSS

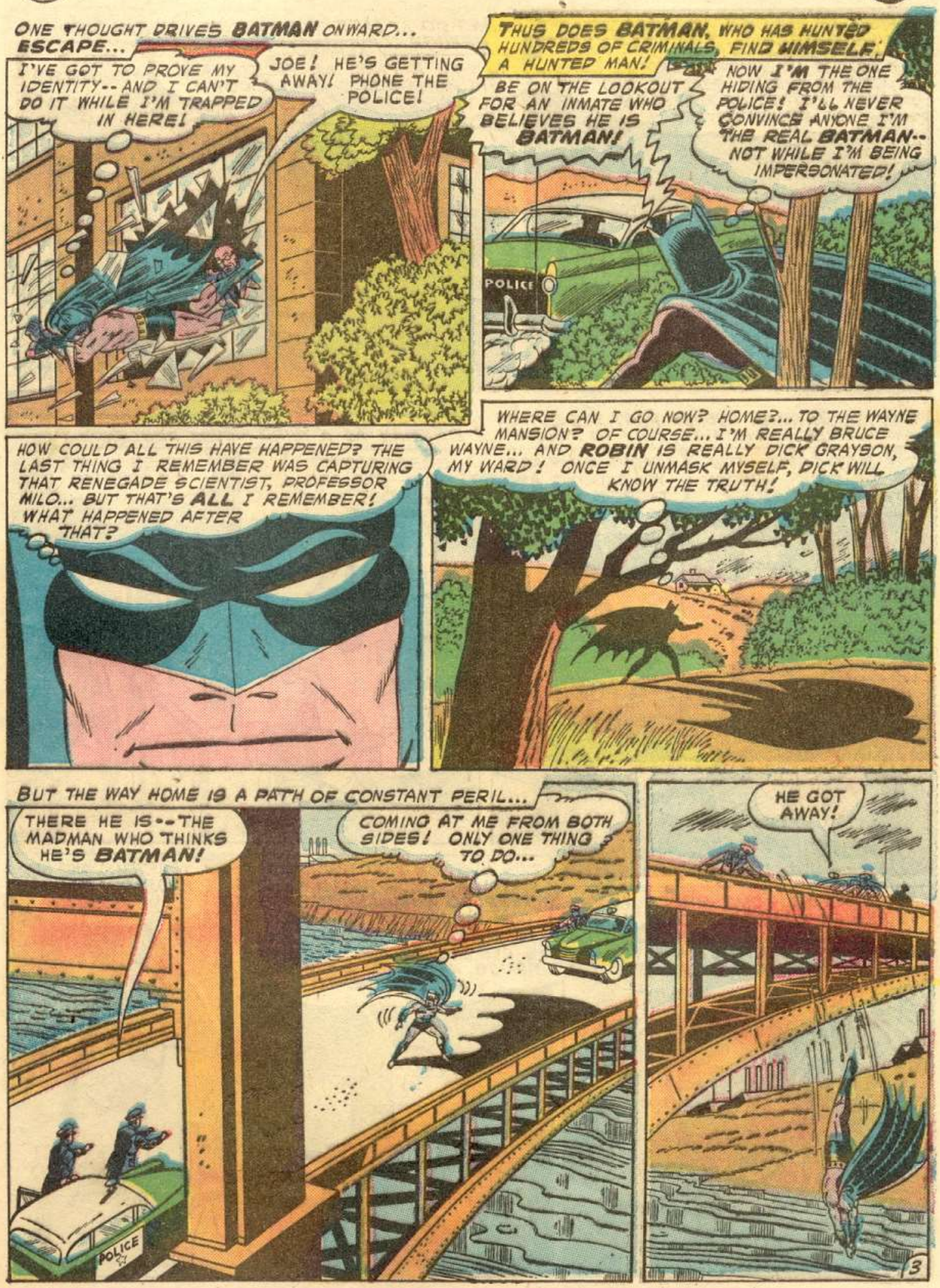
SOON AFTER, MILO HAS AN UNINVITED VISITOR...
YOUR MEN TALKED, MILO!
STARMAN! HAH! I'LL SOON STOP HIM!
SWIFTLY, THE CUNNING SCIENTIST HOLDS UP A PAPER CUTOUT OF--A BAT...
GET BACK, BATMAN... OR STARMAN... OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL YOURSELF! GET BACK! THIS IS A BAT-- AND YOU'RE AFRAID OF BATS, AREN'T YOU?
CRACK
YOU STILL THINK I'M AFRAID OF BATS, MILO?
GULP! A--A BATMAN COSTUME... UNDER THE STARMAN COSTUME!
AND SO, AFTER TURNING MILO OVER TO THE POLICE...
THANKS, ROBIN-- I'LL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
GOSH... WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR, IF NOT TO HELP EACH OTHER?
MEANWHILE, WHAT HAS COME OVER MILO, AS HE SITS IN A JAIL CELL?...
YI-I-I! A BAT! GET IT AWAY FROM ME!
THE GUY'S SUDDENLY AFRAID OF BATS! I WONDER WHY...?
THE END.

IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE, AS EVERYTHING THAT BATMAN TOOK FOR GRANTED SUDDENLY SEEMED A LIE -- SOMETHING HE IMAGINED! INDEED, EVEN DICK GRAYSON, WHO IS REALLY ROBIN, DENIED KNOWING BATMAN'S EXISTENCE! THUS, THE MAN WEARING THE BATMAN COSTUME SOON HAD TO ASK HIMSELF THE TERRIBLE QUESTION...
BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
AM I REALLY BATMAN?
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, DICK? I'M BRUCE WAYNE... BATMAN!
NO! YOU'RE NOT THE REAL BRUCE WAYNE -- AND THE REAL BRUCE WAYNE IS NOT BATMAN!
BOB KANE

A CAPED FIGURE AWAKENS FROM SLEEP, STIRS LISTLESSLY...
FUNNY -- I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING AT ALL TODAY... DON'T EVEN WANT TO GET UP!

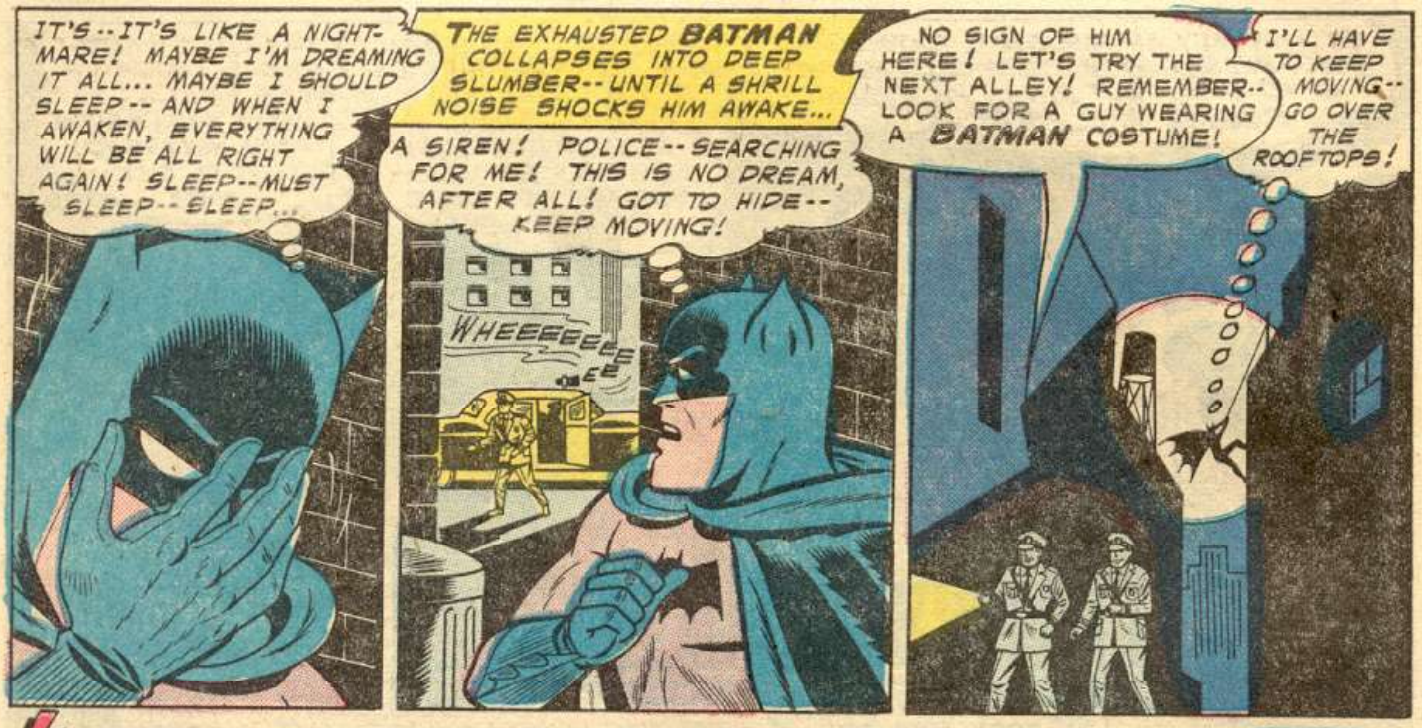

SUDDENLY, THE EYES SNAP OPEN AS THEY BECOME AWARE OF THE STRANGE SURROUNDINGS...
WHAT --? I'M IN A CELL -- A PADDED CELL!

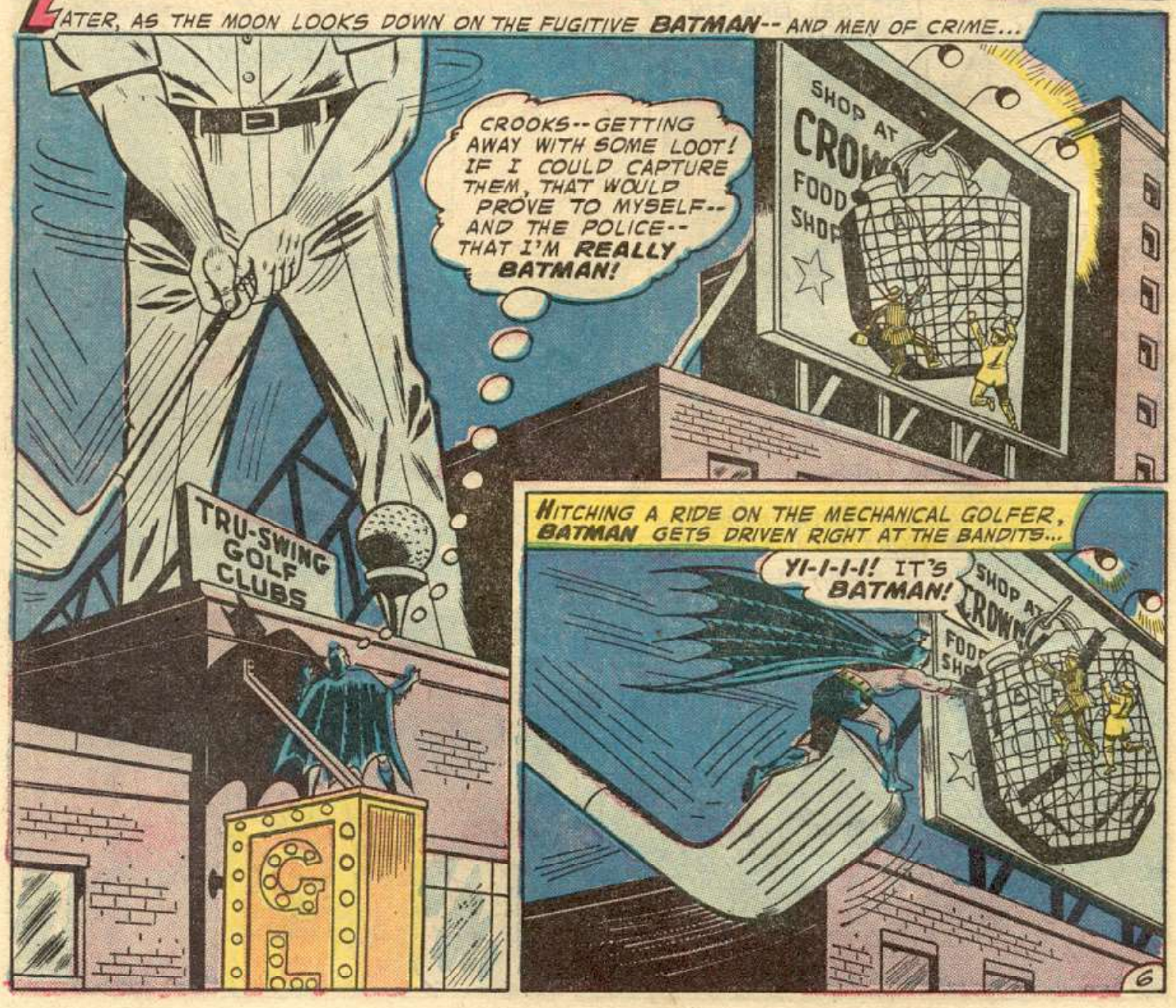
GUARD! WHAT AM I DOING HERE? LET ME OUT! I'M BATMAN!
OH, SURE-- YOU'RE "BATMAN..."
...AND HE'S "NAPOLEON"! THIS PLACE IS FILLED WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU-- PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY'RE SOMEBODY ELSE!
GREAT SCOTT! I'M IN A MENTAL INSTITUTION!
THE TERRIBLE THOUGHT ROUSES BATMAN INTO A NEAR FRENZY...
I'M REALLY BATMAN! CALL ROBIN-- HE'LL TELL YOU I'M REALLY BATMAN!
YOU POOR FELLOW! HOW COULD YOU BE BATMAN-- WHEN IT WAS BATMAN AND ROBIN WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE?
NO! THAT'S CRAZY-- IMPOSSIBLE! YOU'RE LYING!
PERHAPS THE TRUTH WILL RETURN YOU TO SANITY! BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL BE ON A NEWSCAST SHORTLY... YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF!
YOU MUST BE LYING! IF I'M NOT BATMAN, WHY DIDN'T YOU REMOVE MY COSTUME?
WHEN BATMAN BROUGHT YOU HERE, HE ASKED ME TO HUMOR YOU! HE THINKS REMOVING THIS FAKE COSTUME TOO SOON MIGHT PROVE TOO GREAT A SHOCK FOR YOUR MIND!
SOON AFTER, THE TV SCREEN REVEALS A STARTLING SCENE...
...IN BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, I GIVE YOU THIS MEDAL FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE TO JUSTICE!
ROBIN-- WITH ANOTHER BATMAN! IT-- IT'S FANTASTIC!
THAT OTHER BATMAN IS A FAKE! HE'S IMPERSONATING ME-- HE'S EVEN GOT ROBIN CONVINCED HE'S ME! IT'S A PLOT AGAINST ME, I TELL YOU!
GRAB HIM, JOE! HE'S GETTING VIOLENT!


ONE THOUGHT DRIVES BATMAN ONWARD... ESCAPE...
I'VE GOT TO PROVE MY IDENTITY-- AND I CAN'T DO IT WHILE I'M TRAPPED IN HERE!
JOE! HE'S GETTING AWAY! PHONE THE POLICE!
THUS DOES BATMAN, WHO HAS HUNTED HUNDREDS OF CRIMINALS, FIND HIMSELF A HUNTED MAN!
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR AN INMATE WHO BELIEVES HE IS BATMAN!
NOW I'M THE ONE HIDING FROM THE POLICE! I'LL NEVER CONVINCE ANYONE I'M THE REAL BATMAN-- NOT WHILE I'M BEING IMPERSONATED!
POLICE
HOW COULD ALL THIS HAVE HAPPENED? THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS CAPTURING THAT RENEGADE SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR MILO... BUT THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER! WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
WHERE CAN I GO NOW? HOME?... TO THE WAYNE MANSION? OF COURSE... I'M REALLY BRUCE WAYNE... AND ROBIN IS REALLY DICK GRAYSON, MY WARD! ONCE I UNMASK MYSELF, DICK WILL KNOW THE TRUTH!
BUT THE WAY HOME IS A PATH OF CONSTANT PERIL...
THERE HE IS--THE MADMAN WHO THINKS HE'S BATMAN!
COMING AT ME FROM BOTH SIDES! ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
POLICE
HE GOT AWAY!

LATER, AS BATMAN APPROACHES THE WAYNE MANSION...
MUST MAKE SURE THE POLICE HAVEN'T TRAILED ME HERE... OTHERWISE THEY'LL REALIZE THAT THE SECRET IDENTITY OF BATMAN IS BRUCE WAYNE!
AND SO AT LAST, THE HUNTED MAN REACHES HIS REFUGE...
ALFRED! IT'S GOOD TO SEE A FAMILIAR FACE AGAIN! WHERE'S DICK? IS HE DOWN IN THE BAT-CAVE?
EH--? WHERE?
SWIFTLY, BATMAN RUSHES PAST THE BUTLER AND HURRIES DOWNSTAIRS, ONLY TO DISCOVER...
THE BAT-CAVE... IT'S GONE! DICK-- WHERE'S THE BAT-CAVE?
GASP! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NO BAT-CAVE HERE!
MINUTES LATER, ANOTHER SHOCK GREETS BATMAN AS A THIRD FIGURE DESCENDS...
GREAT SCOTT! WHO--WHO ARE YOU?
BRUCE WAYNE, OF COURSE!
YOU CAN'T BE! I'M BRUCE WAYNE! YOU'RE AN IMPOSTOR! DICK, LOOK AT MY FACE! HE'S TRICKED YOU! YOU KNOW MY SECRET IDENTITY-- YOU KNOW I'M BATMAN!
THIS MUST BE THAT ESCAPED MADMAN! POOR FELLOW... HE'S READ SO MUCH ABOUT BATMAN THAT HE FINALLY IMAGINED HE IS BATMAN! AND, BECAUSE HE RESEMBLES ME, HE THINKS BRUCE WAYNE IS BATMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY!
TCH-TCH... AND HE PROBABLY THINKS I'M ROBIN!

IS THAT BOY AN IMPOSTOR, TOO? NO-- I RECOGNIZE THAT BIRTHMARK ON HIS SHOULDER! HE IS DICK! BUT WHY IS HE DENYING HE'S ROBIN? WHY?... WHY?
LOOK-- I SAW BRUCE GET THAT NICK ON HIS CHEEK WHILE SHAVING, TWO DAYS AGO! THAT PROVES HE'S BRUCE WAYNE-- BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THAT NICK!
I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I KNOW I'M BRUCE WAYNE... I'VE ALWAYS BEEN BRUCE WAYNE! WHY ARE YOU DENYING IT, DICK-- WHY?
SUDDENLY...
GRAB HIM, DICK! HE'S GETTING VIOLENT!
IT'S CRAZY--CRAZY! I FEEL LIKE I'M FIGHTING MYSELF!
FLEXING HIS POWERFUL MUSCLES, BATMAN WRENCHES HIMSELF FREE, AND...
SORRY I HAVE TO DO THIS, BUT I MUST GET AWAY... GET AWAY TO THINK--FIGURE THIS OUT!
ESCAPING, THE HUNTED BATMAN SEEKS REFUGE IN THE SHADOWY ALLEYS OF THE CITY...
MAYBE I'D BE SAFER REMOVING MY COSTUME! NO--THAT WOULDN'T HELP! THAT IMPOSTOR MUST HAVE TOLD THE POLICE I RESEMBLE HIM! THEY'D RECOGNIZE ME, ANYHOW!
ARGA
SIGH! FEEL SO TIRED--AS IF I DON'T CARE ANYMORE! I'M TIRED OF FIGHTING--TIRED OF RUNNING! MAYBE I HAVE LOST MY MIND-- MAYBE I SHOULD BE LOCKED UP!


IT'S--IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE! MAYBE I'M DREAMING IT ALL... MAYBE I SHOULD SLEEP-- AND WHEN I AWAKEN, EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT AGAIN! SLEEP--MUST SLEEP--SLEEP...
THE EXHAUSTED BATMAN COLLAPSES INTO DEEP SLUMBER--UNTIL A SHRILL NOISE SHOCKS HIM AWAKE...
A SIREN! POLICE--SEARCHING FOR ME! THIS IS NO DREAM, AFTER ALL! GOT TO HIDE--KEEP MOVING!
WHEEEEEEEEEE
NO SIGN OF HIM HERE! LET'S TRY THE NEXT ALLEY! REMEMBER--LOOK FOR A GUY WEARING A BATMAN COSTUME!
I'LL HAVE TO KEEP MOVING--GO OVER THE ROOFTOPS!


LATER, AS THE MOON LOOKS DOWN ON THE FUGITIVE BATMAN--AND MEN OF CRIME...
CROOKS--GETTING AWAY WITH SOME LOOT! IF I COULD CAPTURE THEM, THAT WOULD PROVE TO MYSELF--AND THE POLICE--THAT I'M REALLY BATMAN!
SHOP AT CROWN FOOD SHOP
TRU-SWING GOLF CLUBS
HITCHING A RIDE ON THE MECHANICAL GOLFER, BATMAN GETS DRIVEN RIGHT AT THE BANDITS...
YI-I-I-I! IT'S BATMAN!
SHOP AT CROWN FOOD SHOP

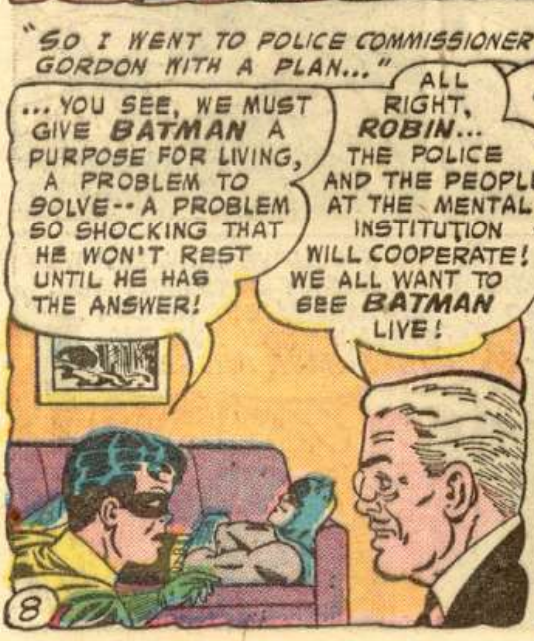
LANDING ON THE ADVERTISING SIGN'S SHOPPING BAG, THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER FIGHTS WITH A FURY BORN OF DESPERATION...
GOT TO CAPTURE THEM... GOT TO PROVE THAT ONLY BATMAN COULD HANDLE CROOKS THIS FAST!
OWN FOOD SHOP!
PITCHING HIS UNCONSCIOUS FOE INTO THE COLOSSAL SHOPPING BAG, BATMAN PULLS ON THE DRAWSTRING, AND...
WHEN THE CROOKS TELL HOW I CAPTURED THEM, THE POLICE MIGHT REALIZE I'VE BEEN TELLING THEM THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!
BUT, AT THAT MOMENT...
MY IMPERSONATOR--AND ROBIN! THEY'VE COME TO INVESTIGATE THE ROBBERY! HMM--A THOUGHT SUDDENLY OCCURS TO ME! I WONDER...
LATER, WHEN THE BATMOBILE RETURNS TO THE BAT-CAVE, A FIGURE WARILY OPENS THE TRUNK...
THEY DIDN'T KNOW I CLIMBED IN HERE WHILE THEY WERE CHECKING ON THAT ROBBERY! SO, I'M NOT CRAZY AFTER ALL! THE BAT-CAVE WAS HERE ALL THE TIME--FORMED INTO A "BASEMENT" BY PROP WALLS!
ABRUPTLY...
ALL RIGHT, MY FRIENDS--START EXPLAINING! THE POLICE WEREN'T SEARCHING FOR A MAN WHO RESEMBLED BRUCE WAYNE--WHICH MEANS YOU DIDN'T TELL THEM! WHY?...BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO PROTECT BATMAN'S IDENTITY!
AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN... THE MAN POSING AS BRUCE WAYNE COULD ONLY BE SOMEBODY WHO ALREADY KNEW MY IDENTITY
WE SHOULD'VE REALIZED WE COULDN'T OUTSMART YOU, BATMAN! BUT WE CAN EXPLAIN--NOW THAT 24 HOURS HAVE PASSED!

SWIFTLY, THE IMPOSTOR REMOVES PADDED GARB AND MAKEUP, TO REVEAL...
ALFRED--JUST AS I FIGURED! YOU WERE MY IMPERSONATOR!
IT ALL BEGAN LAST NIGHT, BATMAN, WHEN YOU AND I WERE AFTER PROFESSOR MILO! YOU MADE ME WAIT OUTSIDE HIS HIDEOUT, IN CASE HE SNEAKED OUT--WHILE YOU RUSHED IN AFTER HIM...

"WHEN YOU BROUGHT MILO OUT, YOU SUDDENLY KEELED OVER..."
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BATMAN? HE SEEMS TO BE IN A COMA!
HA, HA... I'VE BEATEN BATMAN AT LAST! WHEN HE CHARGED INTO MY LABORATORY, HE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS FILLED WITH A GAS MADE FROM A RARE AMAZON PLANT! IT DIDN'T AFFECT ME BECAUSE I WAS WEARING NOSE FILTERS...

THE GAS HAS A UNIQUE EFFECT ON THE PERSON INHALING IT... THE PERSON LOSES THE DESIRE TO LIVE! HE LIES ABOUT LISTLESSLY, REFUSING TO EAT, AND EVENTUALLY HE DIES! HA, HA, HA!

"I QUICKLY DID SOME RESEARCH ON THE PLANT, AND LEARNED ONE FACT..."
...IF THE PATIENT CAN BE GIVEN THE DESIRE TO LIVE, AND IS KEPT MOVING, AT THE END OF 24 HOURS, HE WILL RECOVER!"
RARE PLANTS


"SO I WENT TO POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON WITH A PLAN..."
...YOU SEE, WE MUST GIVE BATMAN A PURPOSE FOR LIVING, A PROBLEM TO SOLVE--A PROBLEM SO SHOCKING THAT HE WON'T REST UNTIL HE HAS THE ANSWER!
ALL RIGHT, ROBIN... THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE AT THE MENTAL INSTITUTION WILL COOPERATE! WE ALL WANT TO SEE BATMAN LIVE!

SO I GOT ALFRED TO IMPERSONATE YOU, AS BATMAN AND BRUCE WAYNE -- AND THE REST YOU KNOW! IT WAS A DRASTIC MOVE-- BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE, TO SAVE YOUR LIFE!
I AGREE... IT CERTAINLY KEPT MY BRAIN AWAKE, AND KEPT ME ON THE MOVE!

BUT-- IT'S ALL OVER NOW! I CAN GO TO SLEEP AND WAKE UP TOMORROW, KNOWING THAT EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL!
YES... AND THAT BATMAN WILL BE BACK ON THE JOB-- AS USUAL!
THE END

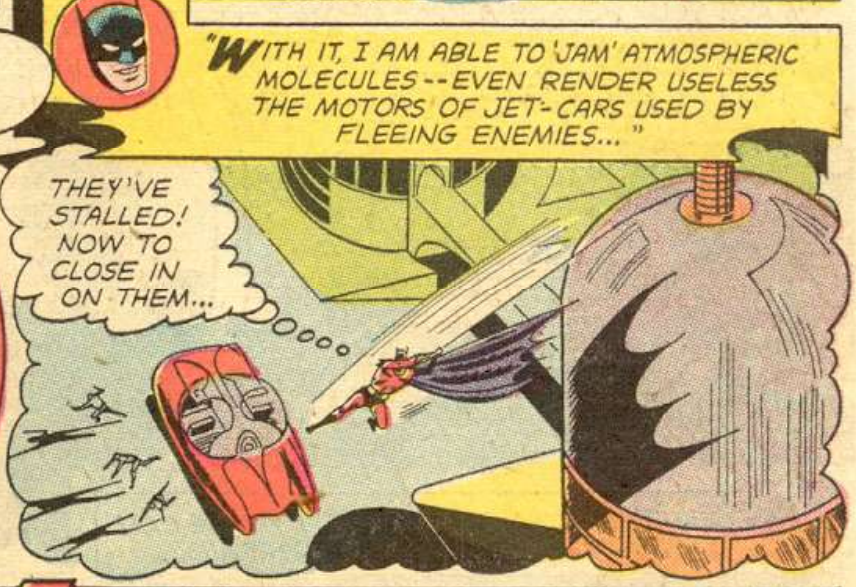
BATMAN
With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
BOB KANE
HE'S FAR FASTER THAN A SPEEDING ATOMIC-JET! WITH EASE, HE LEAPS OVER TOWERING BUILDINGS! RAY-BULLETS BOUNCE HARMLESSLY OFF HIS CHEST! IS IT A BIRD? A PLANE? NO--IT'S BATMAN! AND THIS TIME, THERE'S A HOST OF SURPRISES FOR THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER OF GOTHAM CITY, AS HE EMBARKS UPON AN AMAZING OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD ADVENTURE TO BECOME...
BATMAN-- THE SUPERMAN OF PLANET X!

AT HIS MANSION, WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE ARISES IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT--AND, WHILE DONNING A FAMILIAR COSTUME, STARES ODDLY AT HIS SLEEPING WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
STRANGE... DICK AND I ALWAYS GO OUT TOGETHER--AS BATMAN AND ROBIN! WHY AM I GOING ALONE TONIGHT?
SOON, IN THE SLEEK BAT-PLANE...
WHERE AM I GOING... AND WHY? EVERYTHING SEEMS SO VAGUE...
S-SOMETHING'S WRONG! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? MY HEAD'S SPINNING...
AND, JUST AS SUDDENLY AS IT CAME, THE SPINNING SENSATION DEPARTS...
WHERE AM I? I'M NO LONGER IN THE BAT-PLANE...
WELCOME, BATMAN, TO THE PLANET ZUR-EN-ARRH! I HAVE MASTERED YOUR LANGUAGE--SO WE MAY TALK!
STUNNED, THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER STARES AT A STRANGE FIGURE--AN UNEARTHLY LIKENESS OF HIMSELF!
THE PLANET ZUR-EN-ARRH?
YES--LOCATED IN A STAR SYSTEM FAR FROM YOURS! I DOUBT IF YOUR ASTRONOMERS KNOW OF OUR EXISTENCE!
I BROUGHT YOU HERE BY TELEPORTATION--BODILY TRANSMISSION THROUGH SPACE! MY WORLD NEEDS YOU!
BUT THAT COSTUME YOU WEAR... YOU LOOK LIKE A FUTURISTIC VERSION OF ME!
TRUE... AND THAT'S BECAUSE I'M THE BATMAN OF ZUR-EN-ARRH! THROUGH A POWERFUL TELESCOPE, I'VE OBSERVED YOUR EVERY ACTION! IT INSPIRED ME TO PLAY THE SAME ROLE HERE!

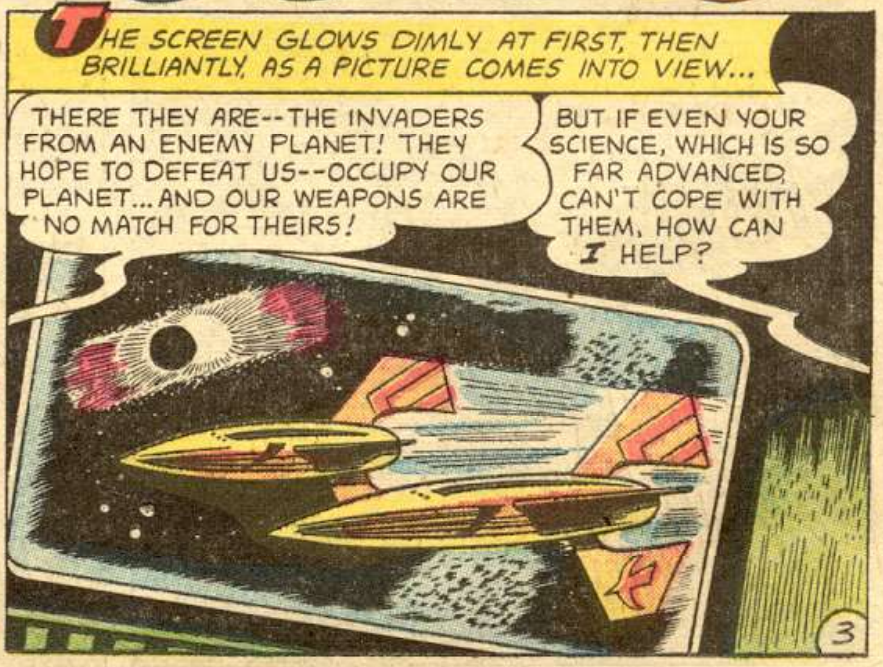
LIKE YOU, I HAVE ANOTHER IDENTITY-- TLANO, THE SCIENTIST! I'VE EVEN EMULATED YOUR BAT-CAVE!
INCREDIBLE!

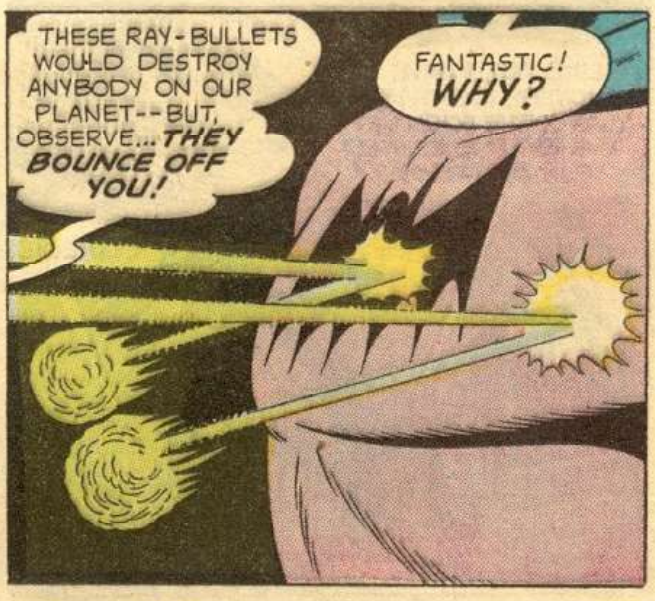
HERE IS MY VERSION OF THE BATMOBILE, WITH AN ATOMIC-POWERED MOTOR... AND THERE'S MY BAT-PLANE!
YOUR SCIENCE CERTAINLY IS AHEAD OF OURS!

AND HERE IS THE MOST VALUABLE OBJECT IN MY UTILITY BELT... THE BAT-RADIA! IT ISSUES ELECTRONIC MOLECULES THAT CAUSE CONTROLLED DISTURBANCES IN THE ATMOSPHERE!


"WITH IT, I AM ABLE TO 'JAM' ATMOSPHERIC MOLECULES--EVEN RENDER USELESS THE MOTORS OF JET-CARS USED BY FLEEING ENEMIES..."
THEY'VE STALLED! NOW TO CLOSE IN ON THEM...

NORMALLY, I RECEIVE MY BAT-SIGNALS ON THIS TELE-VIEW SCREEN! BUT I WANT TO SHOW YOU, NOW, THE PROBLEM CONFRONTING MY WORLD...


THE SCREEN GLOWS DIMLY AT FIRST, THEN BRILLIANTLY, AS A PICTURE COMES INTO VIEW...
THERE THEY ARE--THE INVADERS FROM AN ENEMY PLANET! THEY HOPE TO DEFEAT US--OCCUPY OUR PLANET... AND OUR WEAPONS ARE NO MATCH FOR THEIRS!
BUT IF EVEN YOUR SCIENCE, WHICH IS SO FAR ADVANCED, CAN'T COPE WITH THEM, HOW CAN I HELP?



REQUESTED TO LEAP AS HIGH AS HE CAN, BATMAN SAILS FAR INTO THE AIR...

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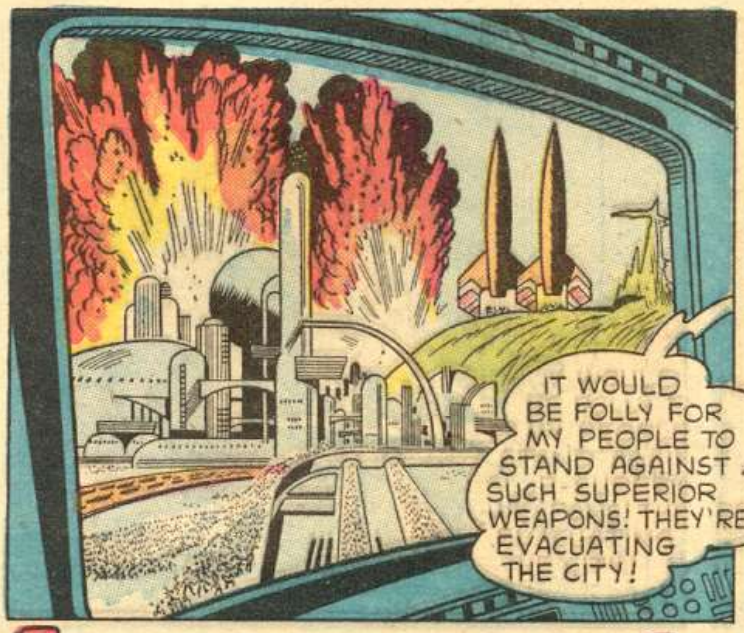
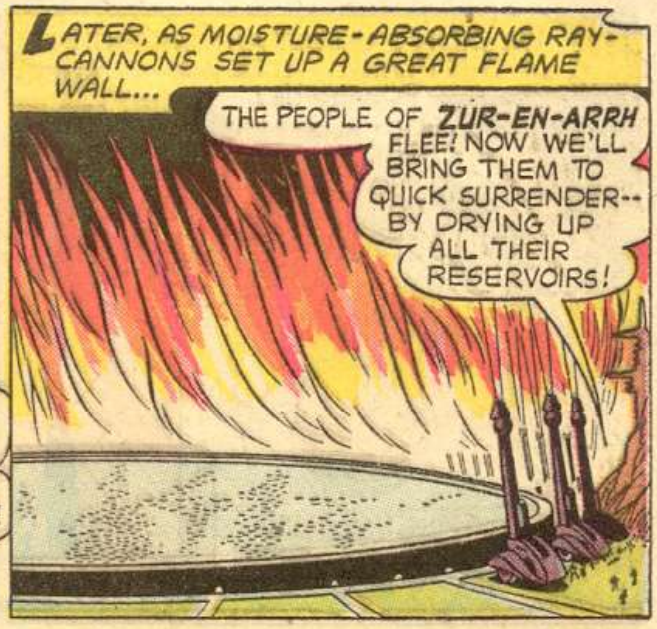

IT WOULD BE FOLLY FOR MY PEOPLE TO STAND AGAINST SUCH SUPERIOR WEAPONS! THEY'RE EVACUATING THE CITY!

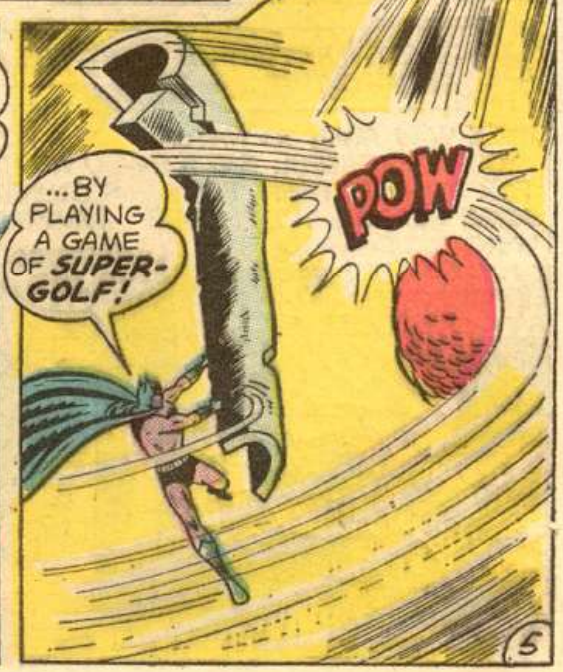

LATER, AS MOISTURE-ABSORBING RAY-CANNONS SET UP A GREAT FLAME WALL...
THE PEOPLE OF ZUR-EN-ARRH FLEE! NOW WE'LL BRING THEM TO QUICK SURRENDER-- BY DRYING UP ALL THEIR RESERVOIRS!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, AN INCREDIBLE FIGURE SOARS HIGH IN THE AIR, ABOVE THE RAY-BLASTS...
EH--? WHAT KIND OF CREATURE IS THAT?

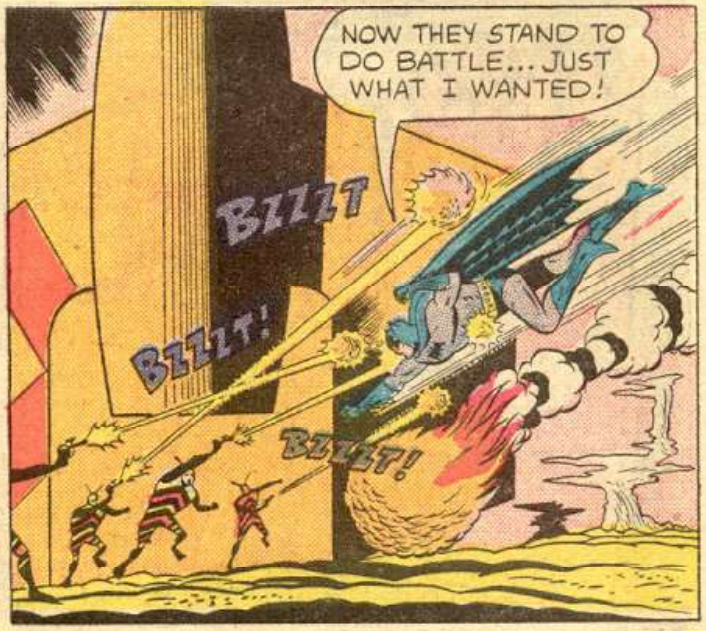
SCORNFUL OF THE FIERY RAYS, THE CAPED FIGURE SMASHES RIGHT INTO THE VERY MOUTHS OF THE CANNONS...
WHAT AN EYE-OPENER IT WOULD BE FOR SUPERMAN TO SEE ME NOW!

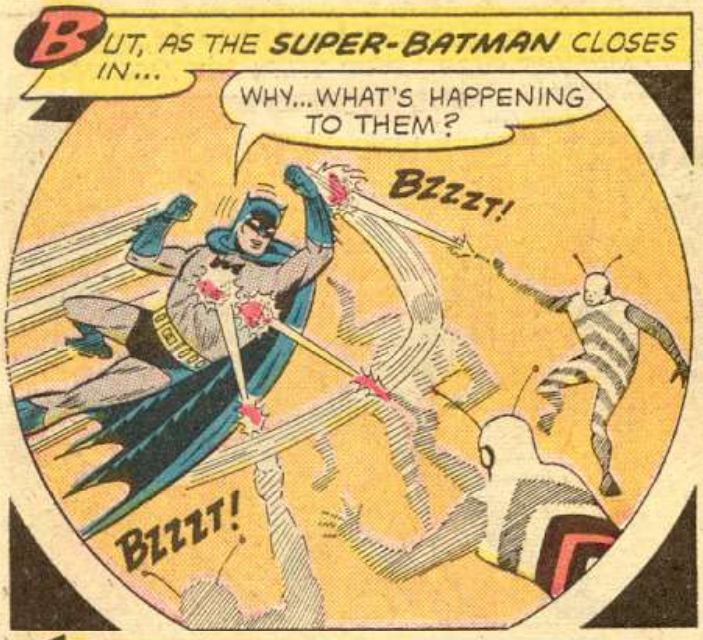
FIERY NUCLEAR ORBS, CAPABLE OF DISINTEGRATING ANYTHING IN THEIR PATH, ARE UNLEASHED BY THE INVADERS...
WONDER HOW MY SUDDEN SUPER STRENGTH CAN STAND UP TO THOSE BABIES...?

I'LL SOON FIND OUT...


...BY PLAYING A GAME OF SUPER-GOLF!
POW

WE DIDN'T EXPECT ANY INHABITANT OF THIS PLANET TO BE SO POWERFUL!

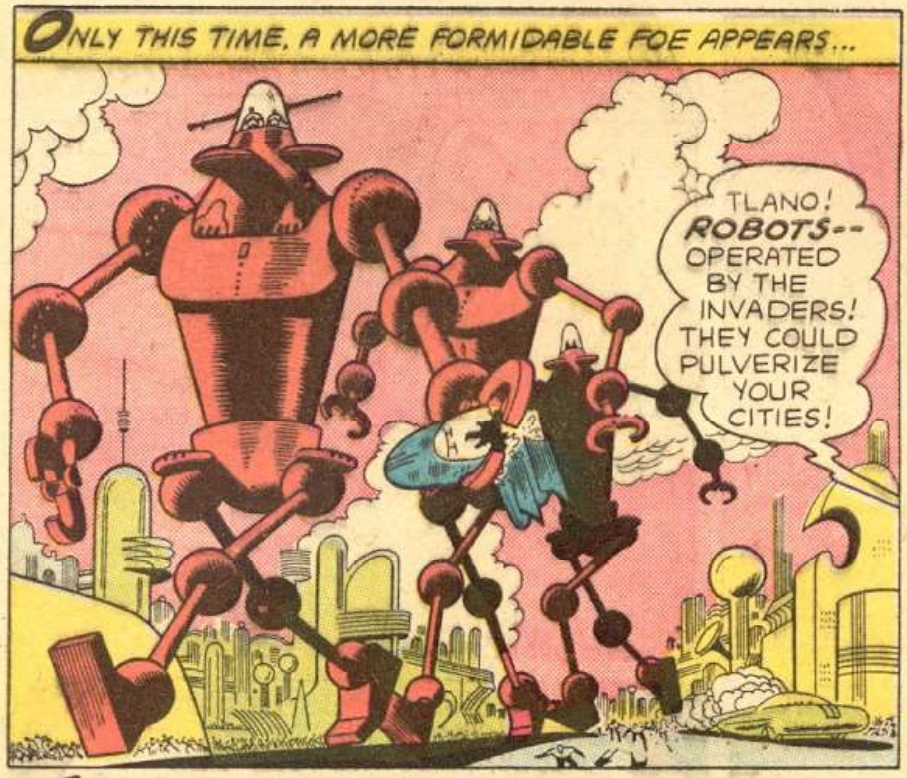

NOW THEY STAND TO DO BATTLE... JUST WHAT I WANTED!
BZZZT
BZZZT!
BZZZT!


BUT, AS THE SUPER-BATMAN CLOSES IN...
WHY...WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM?
BZZZT!
BZZZT!

THEY'VE BECOME INVISIBLE! NOT EVEN MY NEW SUPER-POWERS CAN TOUCH THEM NOW! BUT MAYBE TLANO HAS AN ANSWER TO THIS!
BZZZT
BZZZT!

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, AT THE BAT-CAVE...
I WAS ABLE TO WATCH YOUR SUCCESSFUL BATTLE--FOR AWHILE! THEN, FOR SOME REASON, THE PICTURE WENT WILD--AND FINALLY FADED OUT!
THEY'VE GOT A POWER WE HADN'T COUNTED ON--INVISIBILITY!

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW WE CAN COPE WITH THIS INVISIBILITY?
AT THE MOMENT--NO! BUT, WAIT--ANOTHER PICTURE IS TAKING SHAPE NOW! THEY'VE BECOME VISIBLE AGAIN!


ONLY THIS TIME, A MORE FORMIDABLE FOE APPEARS...
TLANO! ROBOTS-- OPERATED BY THE INVADERS! THEY COULD PULVERIZE YOUR CITIES!

STAY HERE AND WORK ON A COUNTER-ACTION FOR THEIR INVISIBILITY, WHILE I TRY TO TACKLE THOSE ROBOTS!

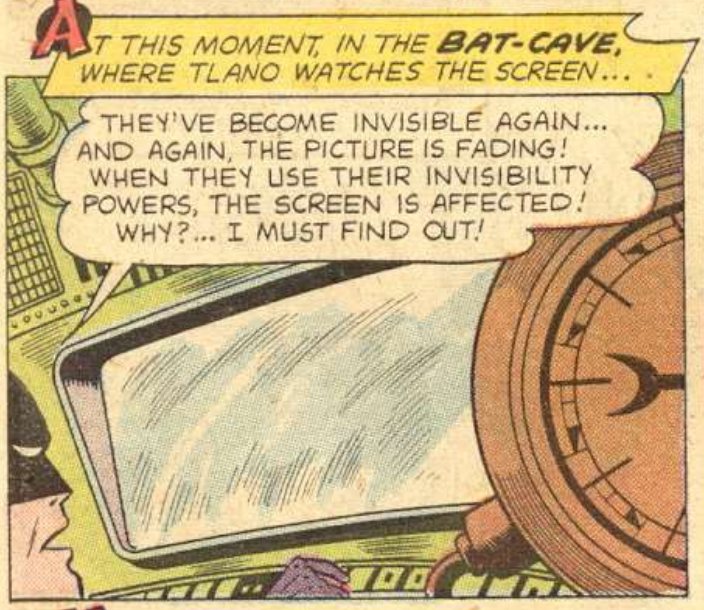
A SPLIT SECOND LATER...
GOT TO STRIKE BEFORE THEY BECOME INVISIBLE AGAIN!
BUT, AT HIS CONTROL BOARD, AN INVADER PULLS A SWITCH --

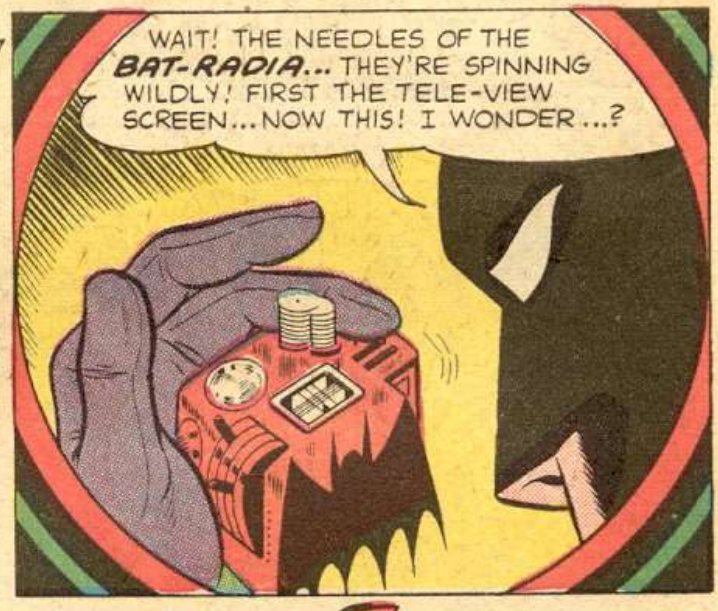
-- SO THAT, BY THE TIME BATMAN ALIGHTS...
TOO LATE! NOW, EVEN THE ROBOTS ARE BECOMING INVISIBLE!

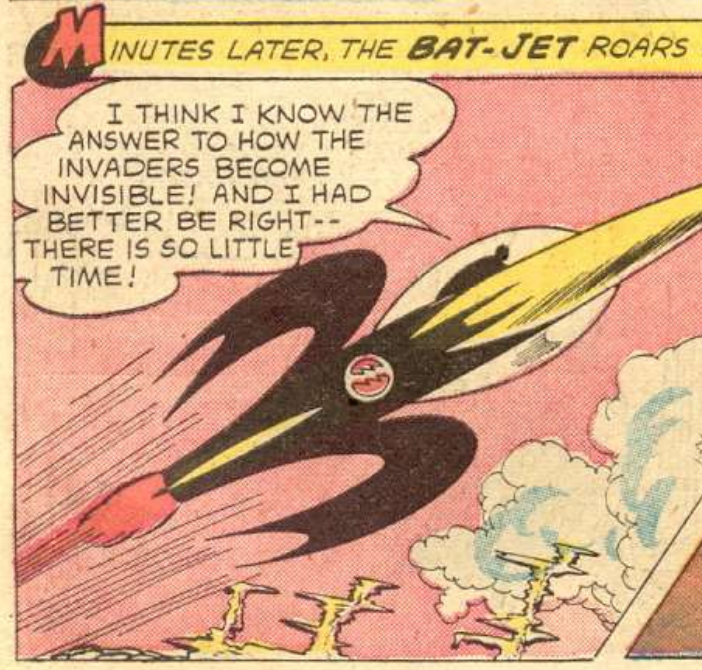
IT IS THEN THAT A GIANT, UNSEEN HAND CLUTCHES THE EARTHMAN...
CAN'T FIGHT SOMETHING I CAN'T SEE! I WONDER HOW MY PAL SUPERMAN WOULD HANDLE THIS SITUATION?

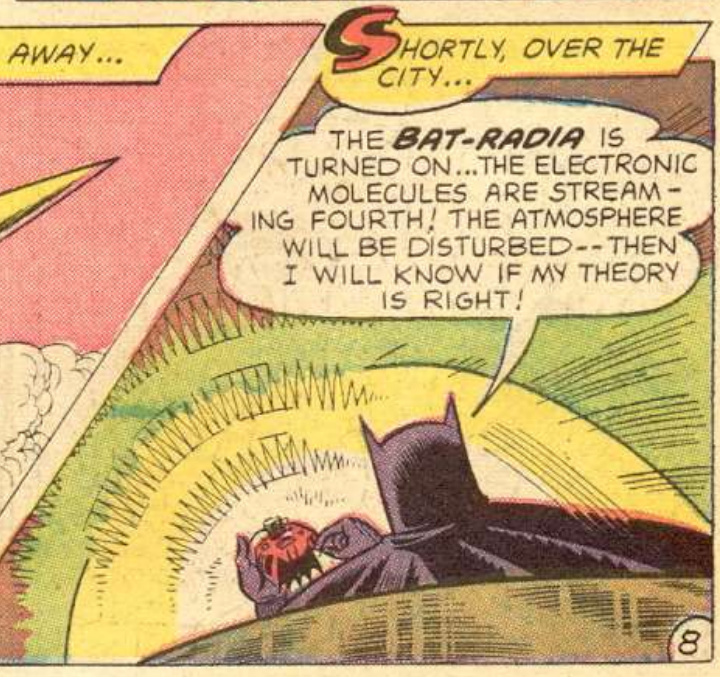
HO! WE WILL WRING THE VERY STRENGTH FROM THIS CREATURE -- THEN, WHEN HE IS WEAKENED, DESTROY HIM!

BUT THOUGH UNABLE TO SEE THE HUGE HAND WHICH CLUTCHES HIM, BATMAN CAN FEEL IT...
CLANG
A SUPER-LEFT HOOK DID THE TRICK... THE HAND HAS LET GO!
BUT I'M STILL HELPLESS TO BATTLE THEM, WHILE I CAN'T SEE THEM!

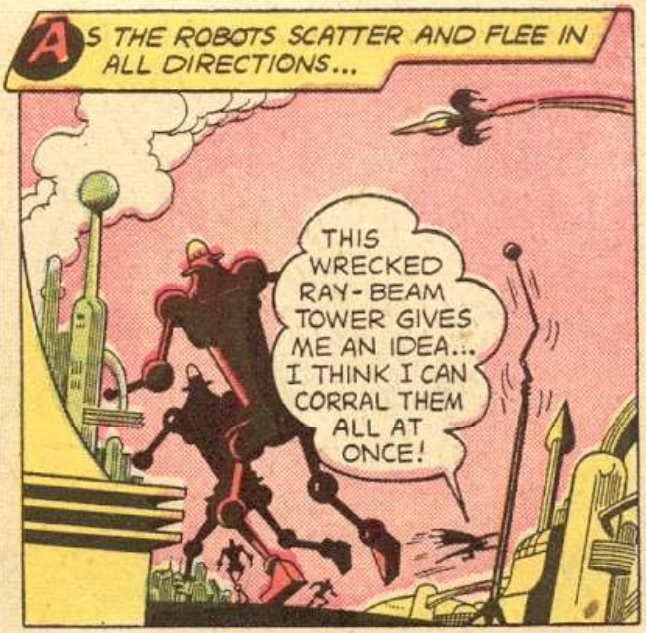

AT THIS MOMENT, IN THE BAT-CAVE, WHERE TLANO WATCHES THE SCREEN...
THEY'VE BECOME INVISIBLE AGAIN... AND AGAIN, THE PICTURE IS FADING! WHEN THEY USE THEIR INVISIBILITY POWERS, THE SCREEN IS AFFECTED! WHY?... I MUST FIND OUT!


WAIT! THE NEEDLES OF THE BAT-RADIA... THEY'RE SPINNING WILDLY! FIRST THE TELE-VIEW SCREEN... NOW THIS! I WONDER...?


MINUTES LATER, THE BAT-JET ROARS AWAY...
I THINK I KNOW THE ANSWER TO HOW THE INVADERS BECOME INVISIBLE! AND I HAD BETTER BE RIGHT -- THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME!


SHORTLY, OVER THE CITY...
THE BAT-RADIA IS TURNED ON... THE ELECTRONIC MOLECULES ARE STREAMING FOURTH! THE ATMOSPHERE WILL BE DISTURBED -- THEN I WILL KNOW IF MY THEORY IS RIGHT!

WHILE DOWN BELOW...
SOMETHING IS WRONG! WE ARE BECOMING VISIBLE AGAIN--AGAINST OUR WILL! SIGNAL A RETREAT!

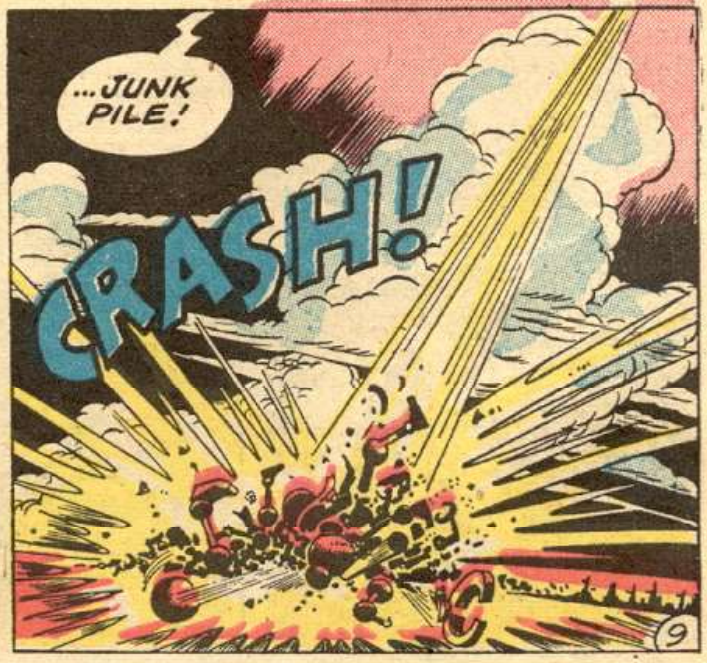

AS THE ROBOTS SCATTER AND FLEE IN ALL DIRECTIONS...
THIS WRECKED RAY-BEAM TOWER GIVES ME AN IDEA... I THINK I CAN CORRAL THEM ALL AT ONCE!

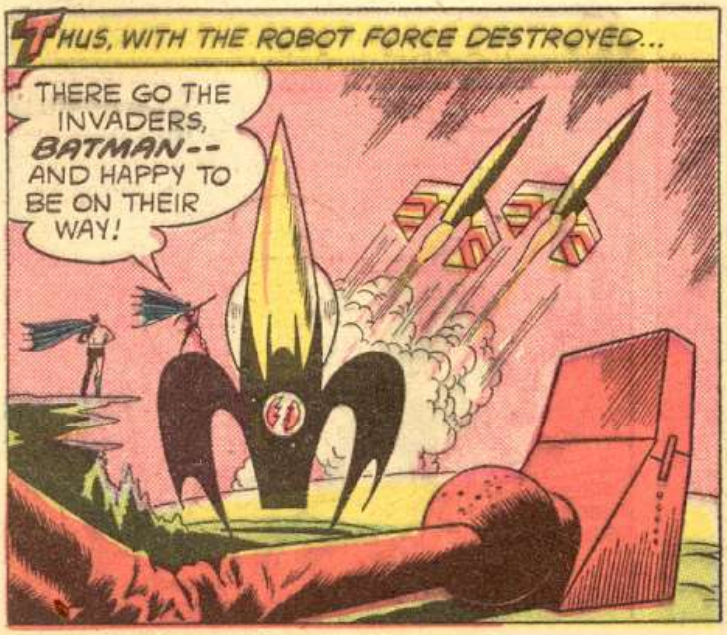
SUPER-STRONG FINGERS EASILY CRUSH THE TOWER-- AND, BY STRAINING THE METAL THROUGH HIS HANDS, BATMAN FASHIONS A LENGTH OF STRONG WIRE...
THIS STUNT OFTEN WORKS FOR SUPERMAN ON EARTH... NO REASON WHY IT CAN'T WORK FOR ME ON THIS PLANET!

SOON, WITH A MILE-LONG "LARIAT" THE SUPER-BATMAN AGAIN TAKES TO THE AIR...
THIS SHOULD BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST ROUND-UPS ON RECORD!

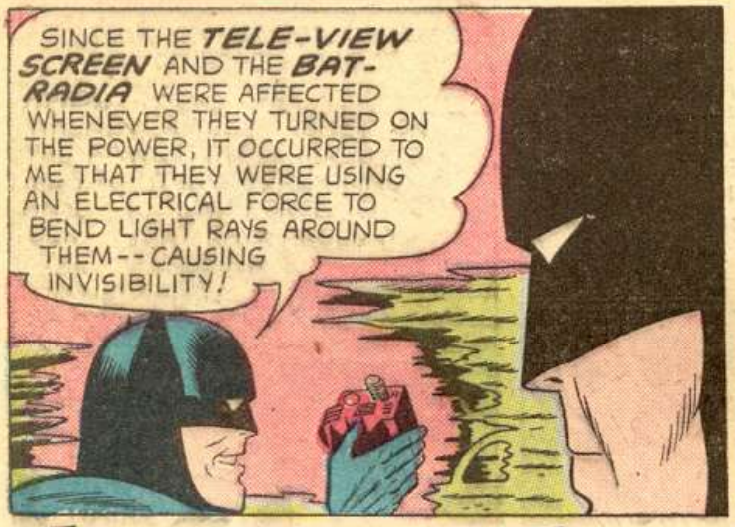
LASSOED AROUND THE ANKLES, THE ROBOTS CRASH TO THE GROUND...
FLEE! FLEE! TO THE ROCKET SHIPS!

THEN, AS A DIMINUTIVE BUT SUPER-POWERFUL FIGURE HOISTS THE METAL MONSTERS SKYWARD...
FOR THE COMPLETION OF THIS STUNT, WE'LL HAVE A...


...JUNK PILE!
CRASH!


THUS, WITH THE ROBOT FORCE DESTROYED...
THERE GO THE INVADERS, BATMAN-- AND HAPPY TO BE ON THEIR WAY!

WHAT'S MORE, I'M SURE WE NEED NEVER FEAR THEIR RETURN! THEY'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF YOU TO LAST THEM A LIFETIME!
I'M ANXIOUS TO KNOW HOW YOU SOLVED THE INVISIBILITY PROBLEM! THAT'S WHAT MADE VICTORY POSSIBLE!


SINCE THE TELE-VIEW SCREEN AND THE BAT-RADIA WERE AFFECTED WHENEVER THEY TURNED ON THE POWER, IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT THEY WERE USING AN ELECTRICAL FORCE TO BEND LIGHT RAYS AROUND THEM--CAUSING INVISIBILITY!

THE ELECTRONIC-MOLECULAR SHOWER FROM THE BAT-RADIA OFFSET THEIR ELECTRIC FORCE, MAKING THEM VISIBLE AGAIN! BUT COME--YOU MUST BE READY TO RETURN TO YOUR WORLD!
YES-- EVEN THOUGH IT HAS BEEN FUN PLAYING SUPERMAN ON YOUR PLANET!

LATER, AT THE BAT-CAVE...
I REALIZE YOU'D ACCEPT NO MORE THAN MY PLANET'S THANKS FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE! BUT AT LEAST TAKE THE BAT-RADIA WITH YOU! IT WON'T WORK IN YOUR ATMOSPHERE--BUT I'D LIKE IT TO BE IN YOUR TROPHY ROOM!
IT'LL BE A CONSTANT REMINDER OF ONE OF MY STRANGEST ADVENTURES!

TLANO THROWS A SWITCH-- AND, INSTANTLY, BATMAN IS BACK OVER GOTHAM CITY...
IN THE BAT-PLANE AGAIN! WHY, I'VE ONLY BEEN GONE FOR A FEW SECONDS--WHICH WERE HOURS ON PLANET X!

IT WOULD BE FAR EASIER TO CONSIDER THIS A DREAM ... BUT HOW CAN I? FOR IN MY HAND, I HOLD THE BAT-RADIA!
0000
THE END

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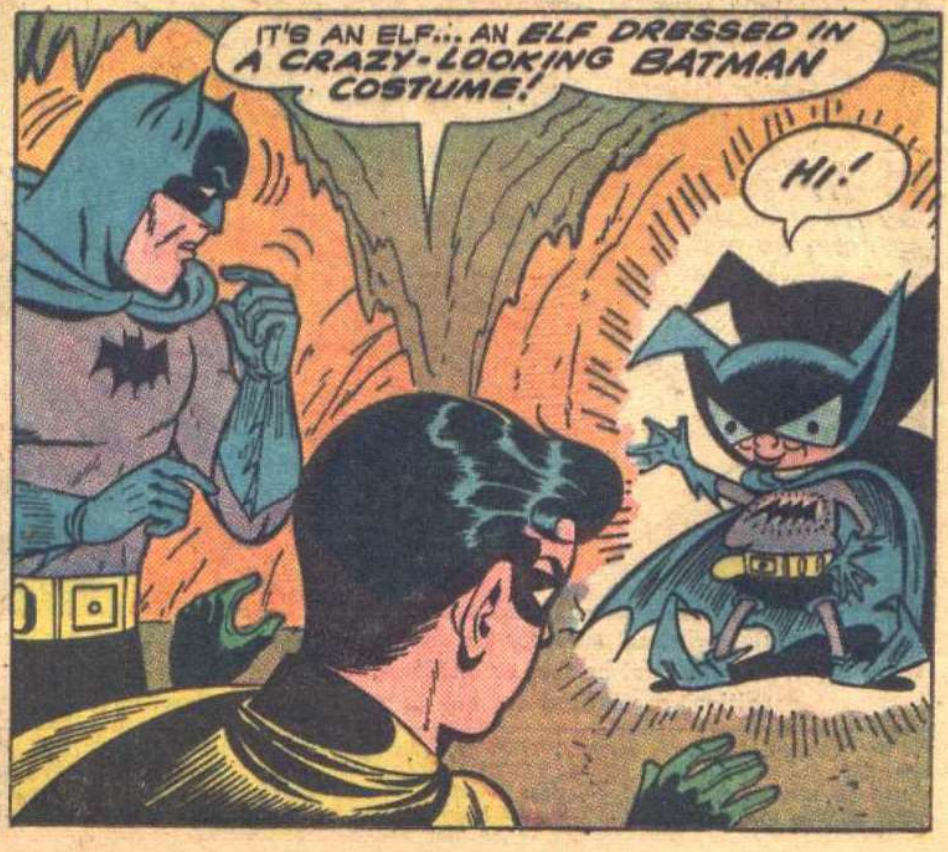
ONE NIGHT, IN THE HOME OF WEALTHY SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON ...
LET'S GO, DICK ... TIME FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN TO START THEIR PATROL!
RIGHT, BRUCE!

BUT, AS THE TWO DON THEIR ACTION GARB IN THE SECRET SUBTERRANEAN BAT-CAVE ...
STRANGE ... WHAT'S MY UTILITY BELT DOING ON THE FLOOR? I'M SURE I HUNG IT IN THE CLOSET!
AND MY BELT-RADIO ... WHO OPENED IT? I ALWAYS MAKE SURE IT'S CLOSED, TO KEEP DUST OUT!

LOOK, ROBIN--EVEN THE EQUIPMENT ON OUR LAB TABLE HAS BEEN DISTURBED!
¡GULP! COULD THERE HAVE BEEN A STRANGER DOWN HERE, IN THE BAT-CAVE?

WHAT--? A VOICE ... BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYONE!
DEAR ME--I'M SORRY! I WAS EXAMINING YOUR EQUIPMENT, AND I'M AFRAID I GOT CARELESS!

IN THAT CASE, I'D BETTER MAKE MYSELF VISIBLE!
BATMAN--LOOK! AM I DREAMING -- OR DO YOU SEE IT, TOO?
I--I'M AFRAID I DO, ROBIN!
POP!


IT'S AN ELF ... AN ELF DRESSED IN A CRAZY-LOOKING BATMAN COSTUME!
HI!

I'M NOT AN ELF! I COME FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION, WHERE ALL MEN ARE MY SIZE! BATMAN, I'VE OBSERVED AND ADMIRED YOUR EXPLOITS FOR YEARS -- SO I DECIDED TO HELP YOU FIGHT CRIME WITH MY UNEARTHLY POWERS! WON'T THAT BE FUN?

I MADE MYSELF A COSTUME--AND I'M CALLING MYSELF BAT-MITE! OH BOY, WILL WE HAVE FUN! BATMAN, ROBIN... AND BAT-MITE! WHAT A TRIO!
YOU-- A CREATURE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION-- WANT TO WORK WITH US? B-BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

WE'D HAVE A HARD TIME EXPLAINING YOUR PRESENCE TO PEOPLE... YOU'D ONLY BE IN THE WAY! BESIDES, IT TAKES A LOT OF TRAINING TO BECOME A CRIME-FIGHTER!
OH, THIS IS VERY DISAPPOINTING! IN THAT CASE, I'D BETTER LEAVE...

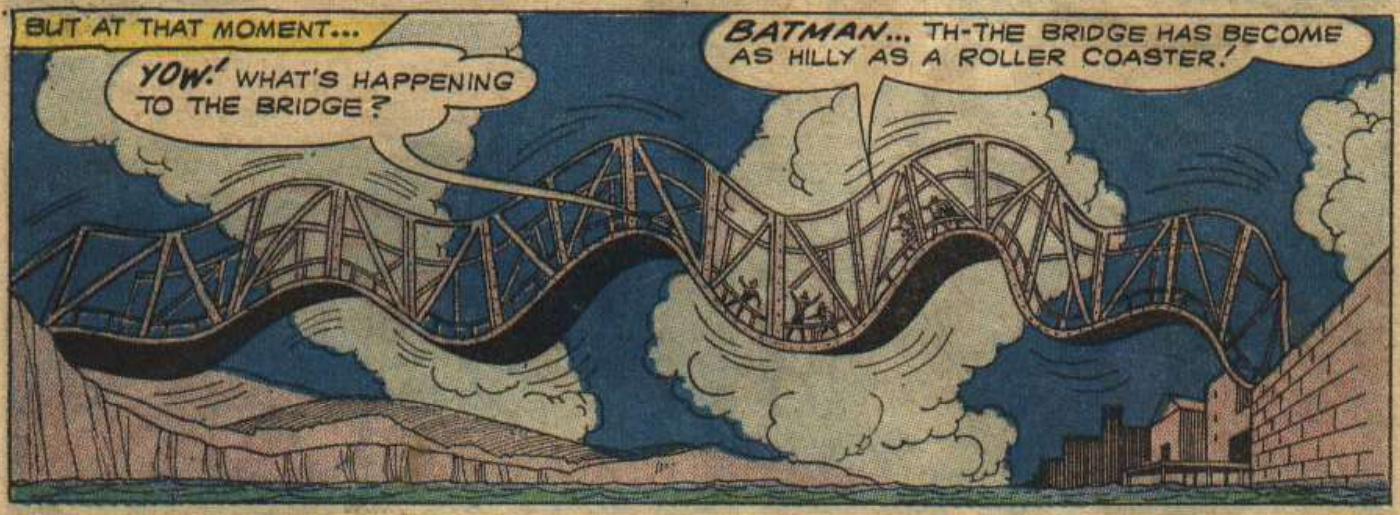
HE'S DISAPPEARED -- GONE BACK TO HIS OWN DIMENSION!
CUTE LITTLE FELLOW... I HATED TO HURT HIS FEELINGS -- BUT WE CERTAINLY COULDN'T HAVE HIM AROUND!
POP!

LITTLE DO BATMAN AND ROBIN REALIZE, AS THEY TAKE OFF IN THE BATMOBILE, THAT AN INVISIBLE FIGURE RIDES ALONG WITH THEM!
HA, HA! THEY DON'T GET RID OF ME THAT EASILY!

SHORTLY, AT THE WATERFRONT...
LOOK! TIPPER NEELY AND HIS GANG—RUNNING TO A GETAWAY CAR!
WE'VE BEEN AFTER THEM FOR MONTHS! GET SET FOR SOME ACTION, ROBIN!
IT'S BATMAN!

ABRUPTLY...
HE'S CUT US OFF!
SCREECH!

AND AS THE CRIMINALS ATTEMPT A GETAWAY ON FOOT...
THEY'RE CLOSING IN FAST! IT'S NO USE... WE'RE FINISHED!

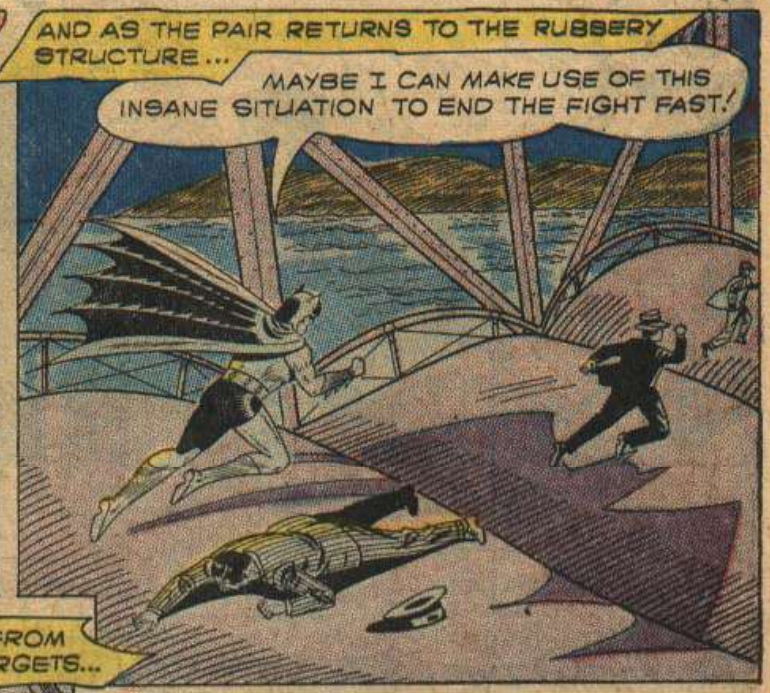

BUT AT THAT MOMENT...
YOW! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE BRIDGE?
BATMAN... TH-THE BRIDGE HAS BECOME AS HILLY AS A ROLLER COASTER!

TO THE QUICK-THINKING BATMAN, THERE IS ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER...
BAT-MITE! REMEMBER HE SAID HE HAS STRANGE POWERS? HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS! BUT--BUT WHY?

DOWN THE STEEP DIP SLIDE THE CRIME-FIGHTERS, FULL FORCE INTO THE BEWILDERED THUGS...
OOF!
UGH!

MEASURING THE GANG CHIEF FOR A BLOW, BATMAN SWINGS...

...ONLY TO COMPLETE HIS PUNCH IN MID-AIR!
THE BRIDGE SNAPPED US UPWARD, LIKE A GIANT RUBBER BAND!

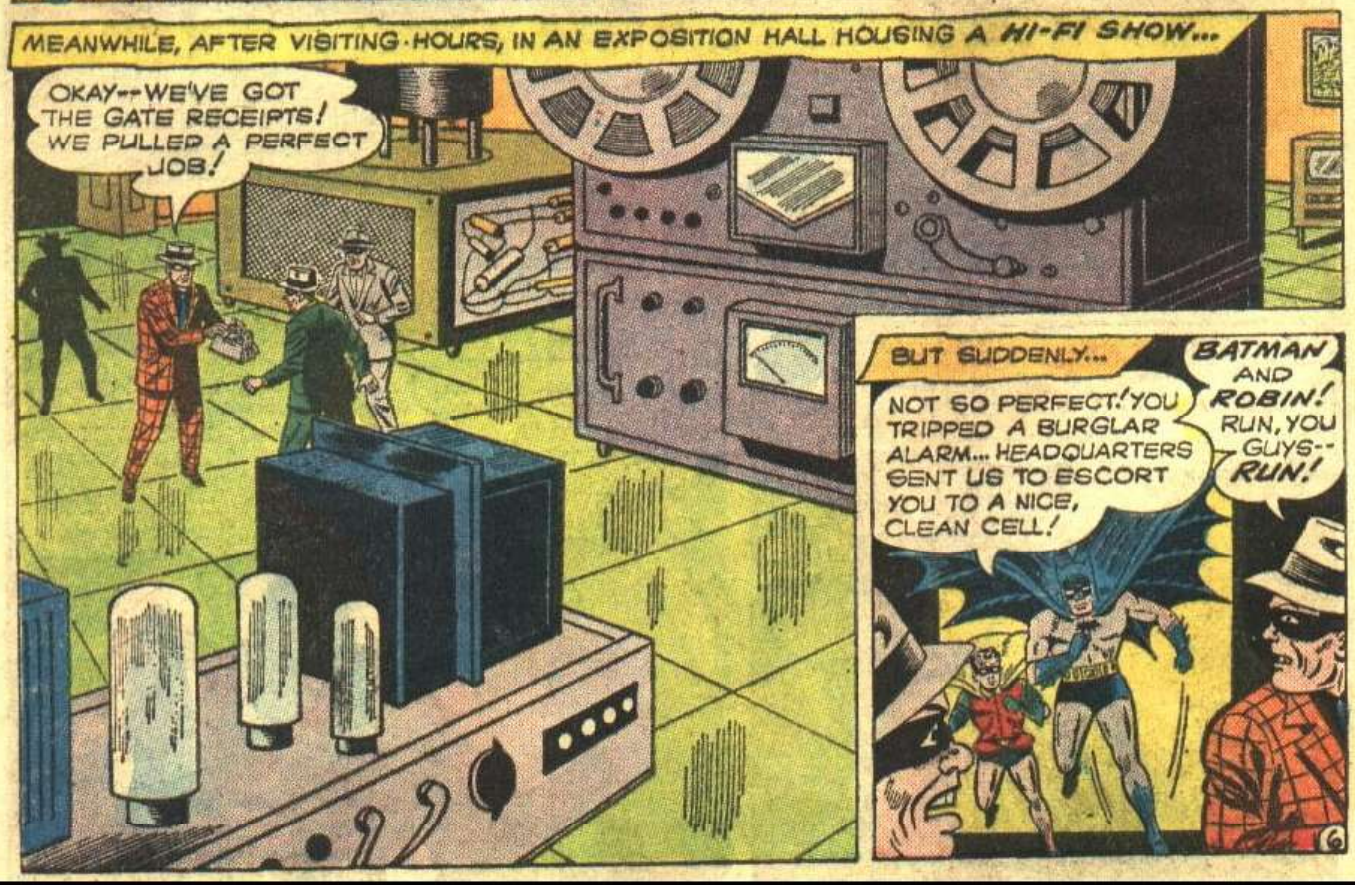

AND AS THE PAIR RETURNS TO THE RUBBERY STRUCTURE...
MAYBE I CAN MAKE USE OF THIS INSANE SITUATION TO END THE FIGHT FAST!

LIKE A TENNIS BALL, BATMAN BOUNCES FROM HILL TO HILL -- HIS JUTTING FIST FINDING TARGETS...
I FEEL LIKE I'M RIDING ...
... A POGO STICK!

WITH THE CAPTURE OF THE BANDITS, THE BRIDGE RETURNS TO ITS NORMAL STATE, PRESENTING BATMAN WITH STILL ANOTHER PROBLEM...
I DON'T GET IT! WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT BRIDGE?
OH, OH -- I'D BETTER THINK OF SOMETHING FAST... NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE THE TRUTH!

ER -- THAT CHEMICAL PLANT... IT EMPTIES ITS WASTES INTO THE RIVER! THEY -- UH -- MIGHT HAVE CAUSED A CHEMICAL REACTION WITH THE WATER -- EMITTING A GAS THAT GAVE US HALLUCINATIONS!
YEAH -- I GUESS THE GAS MADE US SEE THINGS!

NOT UNTIL THE CRIME-FIGHTERS ARRIVE HOME DOES BAT-MITE RETURN TO VISIBILITY...
YOU? I OUGHT TO SPANK YOU! WHAT WAS THE IDEA OF THAT STUNT?
GOSH, BATMAN, YOU WENT AFTER THOSE CROOKS SO QUICKLY, I HARDLY GOT TO SEE YOU IN ACTION -- SO I PROLONGED THE FIGHT A LITTLE! I JUST WANTED TO HAVE SOME FUN!



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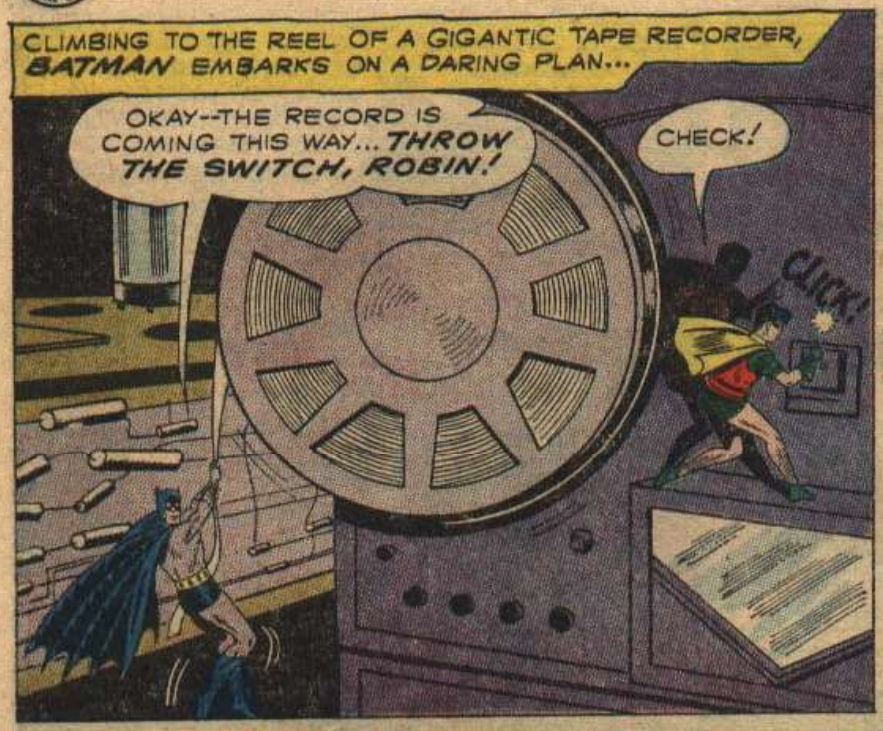
AS THE BANDITS TRY TO SCRAMBLE OVER THE GIANT MODEL OF AN AMPLIFIER...
YOU ALL RIGHT, ROBIN?
I'M FINE--BUT I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THESE FELLOWS!

HOLD IT, BATMAN--WE KNOW WHEN WE'RE LICKED!
GEE... AND I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME SPECTACULAR ACTION! GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO CREATE SOME!..

ABRUPTLY, A RECORD COMES FLYING OFF A COLOSSAL PHONOGRAPH MODEL, AND...
HUH--?
GREAT SCOTT!

WH-WHERE'D THIS THING COME FROM?
WHO CARES? ALL I KNOW IS IT GOT US AWAY FROM BATMAN AND ROBIN... MAYBE IT'LL EVEN FLY US OUTA HERE!

IT'S BAT-MITE'S WORK AGAIN... THAT LITTLE IMP!
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT HIM LATER! RIGHT NOW, WE MUST THINK OF A WAY TO GET UP AT THOSE CROOKS!


CLIMBING TO THE REEL OF A GIGANTIC TAPE RECORDER, BATMAN EMBARKS ON A DARING PLAN...
OKAY--THE RECORD IS COMING THIS WAY... THROW THE SWITCH, ROBIN!
CHECK!
CLICK!

SOON AS I'VE GAINED ENOUGH MOMENTUM...

I JUST LET GO!

AS HE LANDS ATOP THE FLYING RECORD...
BATMAN GOT TO US ANYHOW!
OOF!

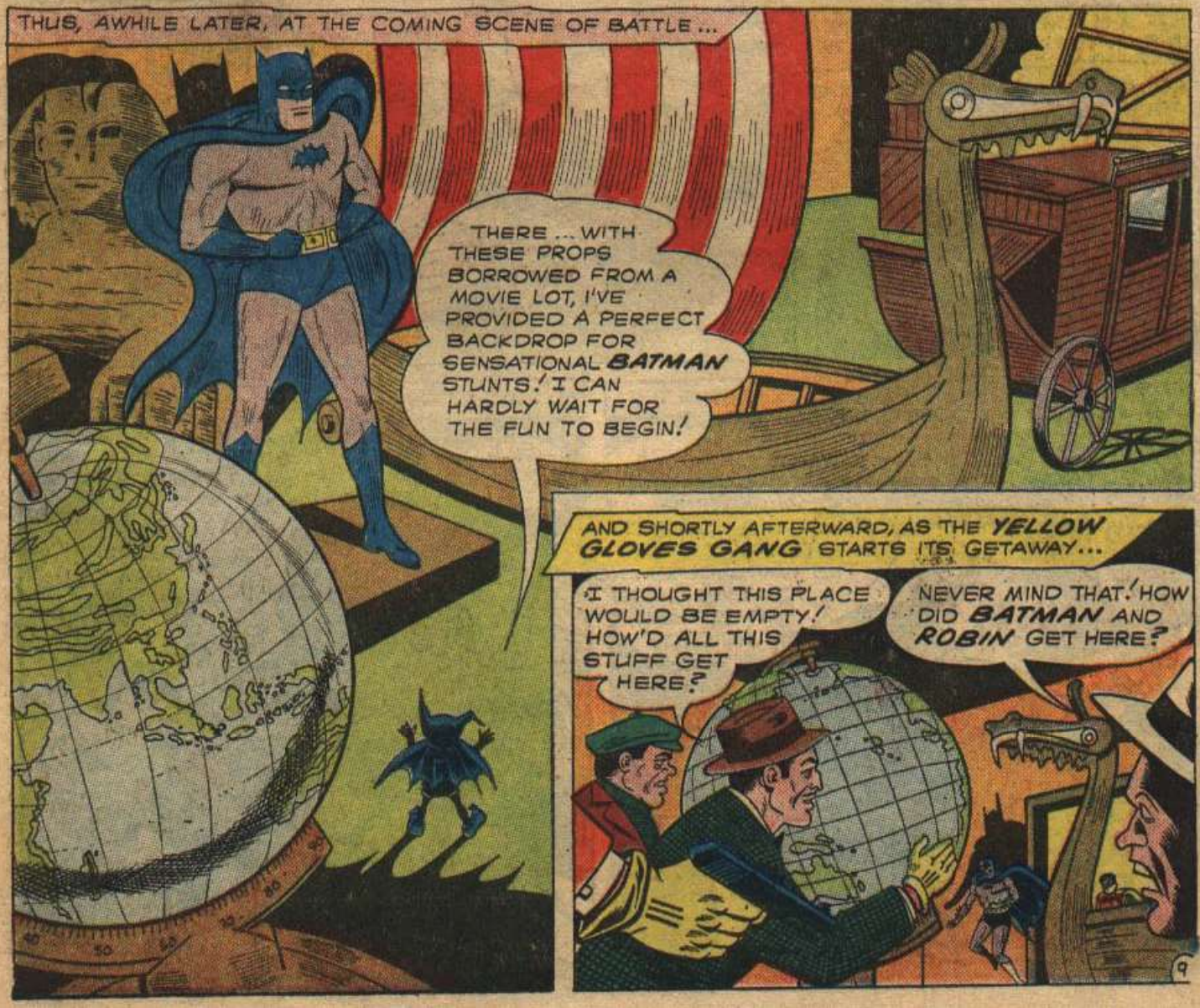
WITH THE BATTLE ENDED, THE RECORD LANDS GENTLY...
IT'S CRAZY! WHAT MADE THE RECORD FLY AROUND THAT WAY?
UH... SOMETHING MAY HAVE GONE WRONG WITH THE PHONOGRAPH'S MOTOR... CAUSING IT TO FLIP THE RECORD SO HARD, THE MOMENTUM KEPT IT FLYING!

LATER, UPON RETURNING TO THE BAT-CAVE...
LISTEN, YOU LITTLE SCAMP, YOU'VE GOT TO CUT OUT ALL THIS MISCHIEF! YOU HEAR ME?... CUT IT OUT OR I WILL SPANK YOU!
AW, GEE, BATMAN-- WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR?

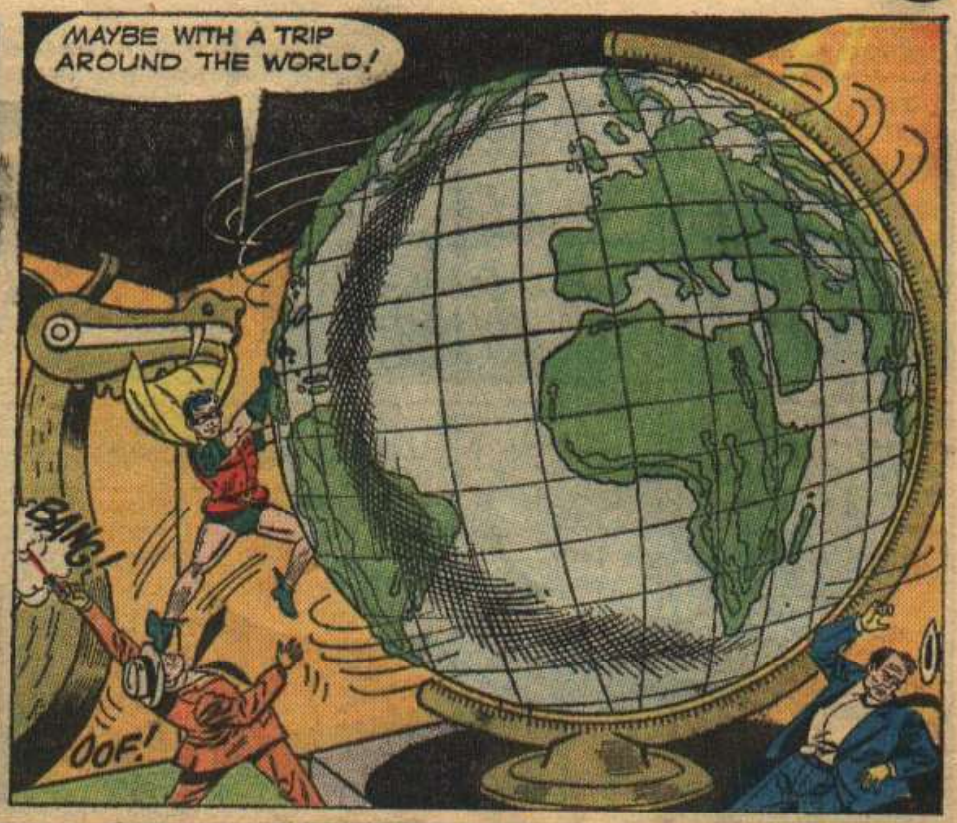
FURTHERMORE, I... HMPH-- THERE HE GOES AGAIN!
LET'S HOPE HE STAYS AWAY FOR GOOD! I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF HIS IDEA OF "FUN"!
POP!

NEXT EVENING...
ROBIN, I JUST GOT A TIP THAT THE YELLOW GLOVES GANG PLANS TO ROB THE SAFE OF THE GOTHAM AUTO COMPANY! I'VE ALREADY WARNED THE MANAGER... HE'S REPLACED THE CASH IN THERE WITH FAKE MONEY!
I SEE... MEANWHILE, WE'LL WAIT THERE IN HIDING TILL AFTER THEY STRIKE -- SO THAT OUR PRESENCE WON'T SCARE THEM OFF!

EXACTLY... AND SINCE THIS EMPTY WAREHOUSE, NEXT DOOR, IS THE SHORTEST ESCAPE ROUTE, THAT'S WHERE WE'LL WAIT FOR FOR THEM!
AN EMPTY WAREHOUSE? NO OBJECTS FOR SPECTACULAR ACTION? I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!


THUS, AWHILE LATER, AT THE COMING SCENE OF BATTLE...
THERE... WITH THESE PROPS BORROWED FROM A MOVIE LOT, I'VE PROVIDED A PERFECT BACKDROP FOR SENSATIONAL BATMAN STUNTS! I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR THE FUN TO BEGIN!
AND SHORTLY AFTERWARD, AS THE YELLOW GLOVES GANG STARTS ITS GETAWAY...
I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WOULD BE EMPTY! HOW'D ALL THIS STUFF GET HERE?
NEVER MIND THAT! HOW DID BATMAN AND ROBIN GET HERE?

DEFTLY, THE DYNAMIC DUO SWINGS INTO ACTION...
YOU FOOLS! STOP HIM!
YEAH?... HOW?


MAYBE WITH A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD!
BANG!
OOF!

BUT A MOMENT LATER, AS THE DESPERATE BANDITS PUSH A DRAGON-SHIP INTO THE CRIME-BUSTERS...
OH, MY... THOSE CROOKS MAY BE ABLE TO ESCAPE! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO SHOW BATMAN AND ROBIN HOW I CAN HELP THEM!

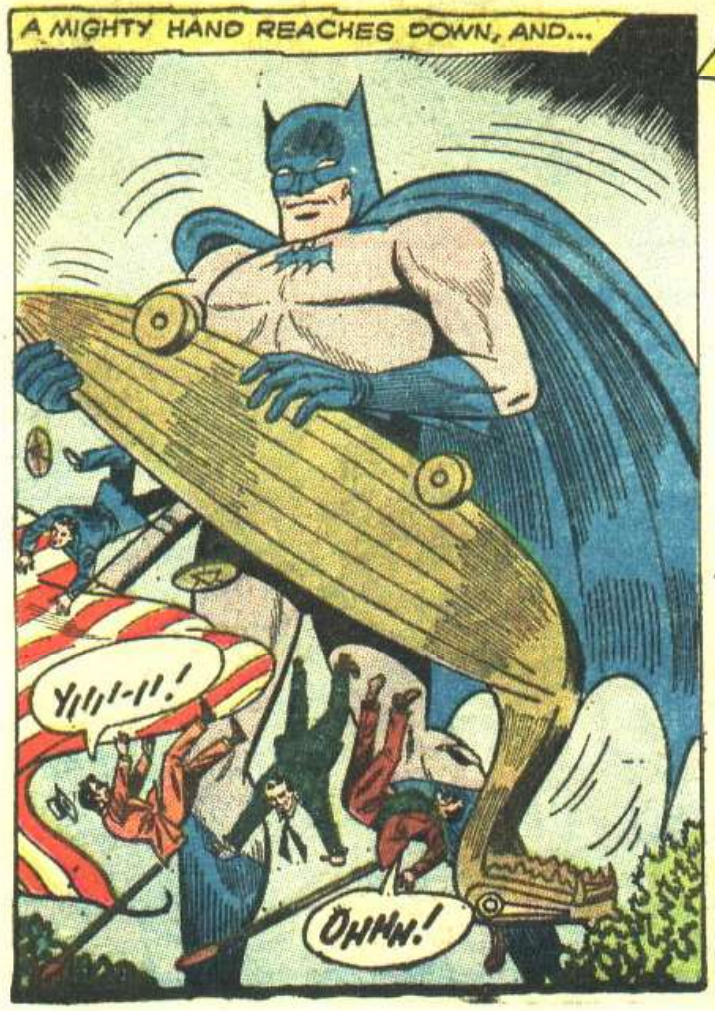
NEXT INSTANT, AS AN UNSEEN FORCE WHISKS THE PAIR ASTRIDE A MODEL SPHINX...
WHAT--? IT'S MOVING! BAT-MITE... YOU DID IT!
POP!
NATURALLY! THE BANDITS ARE RIDING THAT VIKING SHIP DOWN THE HILL THAT SLANTS AWAY FROM THE WAREHOUSE... NOW YOU CAN CATCH UP TO THEM QUICKLY!

BUT ALL AT ONCE...
OOPS! I MADE THE THING BOUND TOO HIGH!
LOOK OUT!

GUESS I--UH--OVERDID MY POWERS A BIT! JUST A LITTLE MISTAKE...
YOU'RE THE LITTLE MISTAKE! YOU RIGGED UP THIS ACTION SET SO YOU'D HAVE SOME FUN-- AND NOW YOUR FUN HAS ALLOWED THOSE BANDITS TO ESCAPE!

BUT MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CATCH THEM YET--IF YOU USE YOUR POWERS EXACTLY AS I TELL YOU! UNDERSTAND?
Y-YESSIR!

MINUTES LATER, THE FLEEING BANDITS LOOK BACK AT AN UNBELIEVABLE SIGHT...
BOSS, LOOK! AM I SEEIN' THINGS?
I SEE IT, TOO... A GIANT BATMAN-- COMING AFTER US!


A MIGHTY HAND REACHES DOWN, AND...
Y!!!-!!!
OHHH!

THEN, FROM THE GIANT FIGURE'S "UTILITY BELT" EMERGE TWO CAPED FIGURES...
THANKS TO BAT-MITE'S MAKING THIS STATUE OF ME COME TO LIFE, WE'VE STOPPED THE ESCAPE! NOW ROBIN AND I CAN CLIMB DOWN AND GRAB THOSE DAZED THUGS!

ADVERTISEMENT

A great circus clown they call Andy,
Whose antics are sure fun and dandy,
Said, "The smile that you see
Is not painted on me—
It's because I eat Tootsie Roll candy!"

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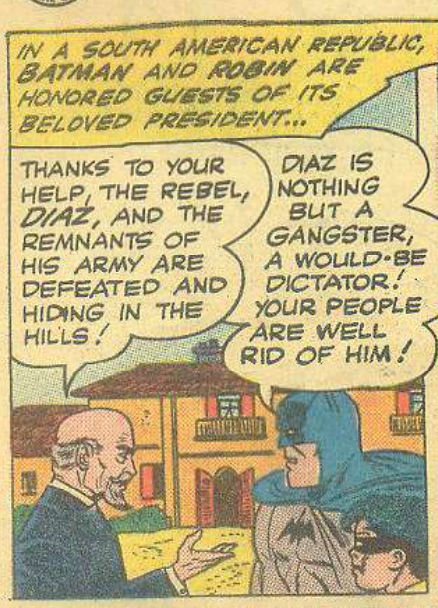
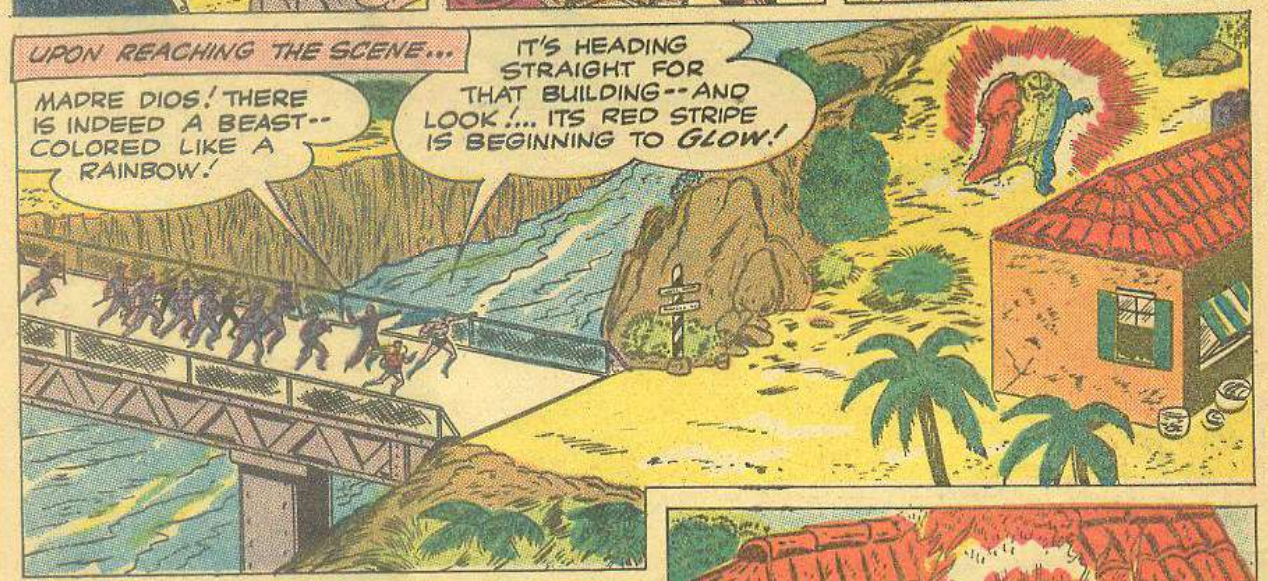
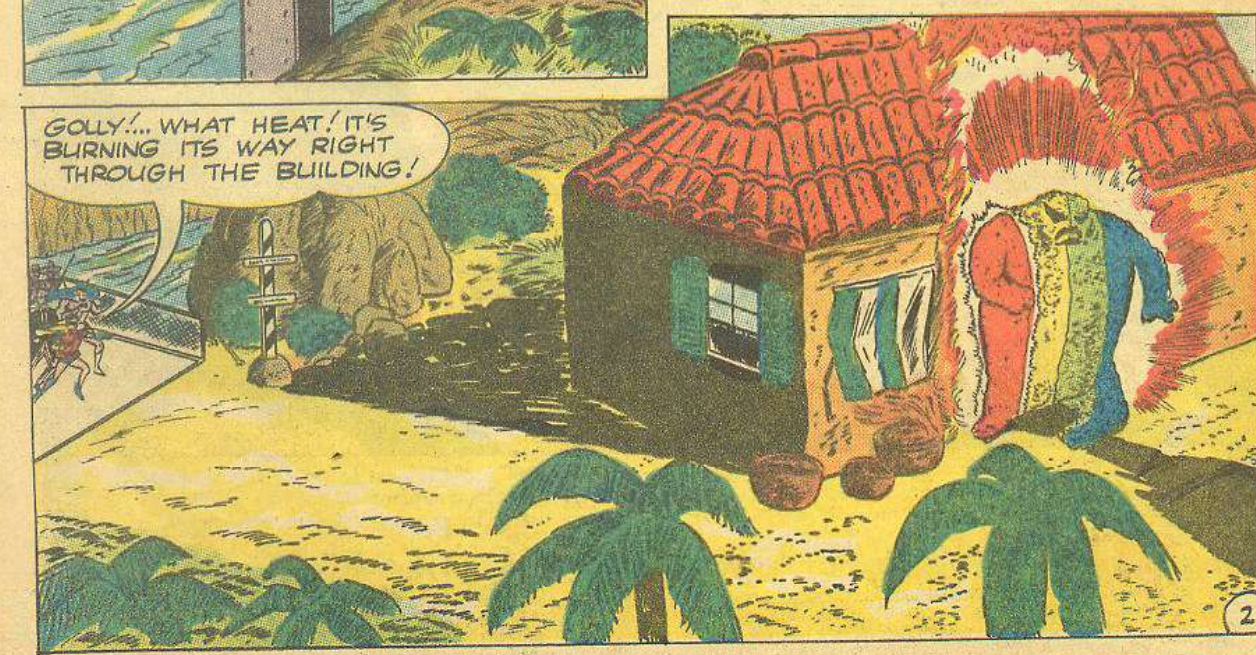
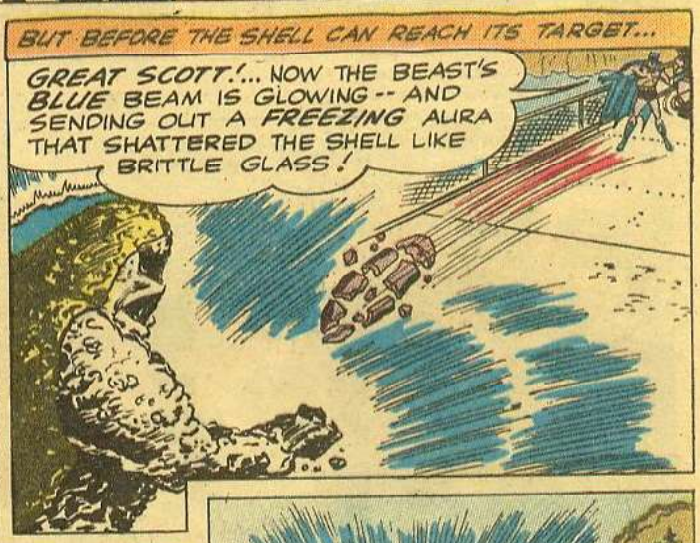

IN A SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLIC, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE HONORED GUESTS OF ITS BELOVED PRESIDENT...
THANKS TO YOUR HELP, THE REBEL, DIAZ, AND THE REMNANTS OF HIS ARMY ARE DEFEATED AND HIDING IN THE HILLS!
DIAZ IS NOTHING BUT A GANGSTER, A WOULD-BE DICTATOR! YOUR PEOPLE ARE WELL RID OF HIM!

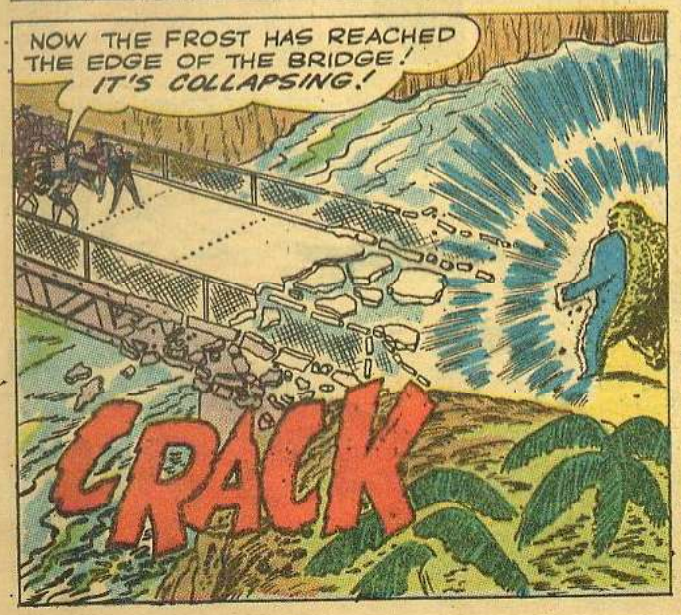
JUST THEN...
EL PRESIDENTE! A BEAST WALKS OUR LAND!
A WHAT?

A BEAST OF COLORS--LIKE A RAINBOW...IT CAME FROM THE HILLS--NEAR THE FIERY VOLCANO--WHERE DIAZ AND HIS ARMY ARE HIDING!
SO?... I WILL SUMMON SOME SOLDIERS AND GO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS "BEAST" YOU SPEAK OF!


UPON REACHING THE SCENE...
MADRE DIOS! THERE IS INDEED A BEAST--COLORED LIKE A RAINBOW!
IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THAT BUILDING--AND LOOK!... ITS RED STRIPE IS BEGINNING TO GLOW!


GOLLY!... WHAT HEAT! IT'S BURNING ITS WAY RIGHT THROUGH THE BUILDING!





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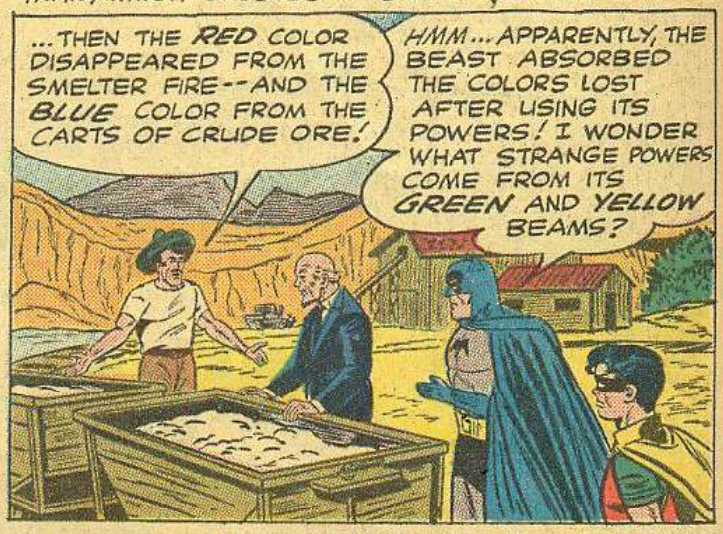
LATER, AFTER PICKING UP THE RAINBOW BEAST'S TRAIL, WHICH CROSSES A NEARBY COPPER REFINERY...



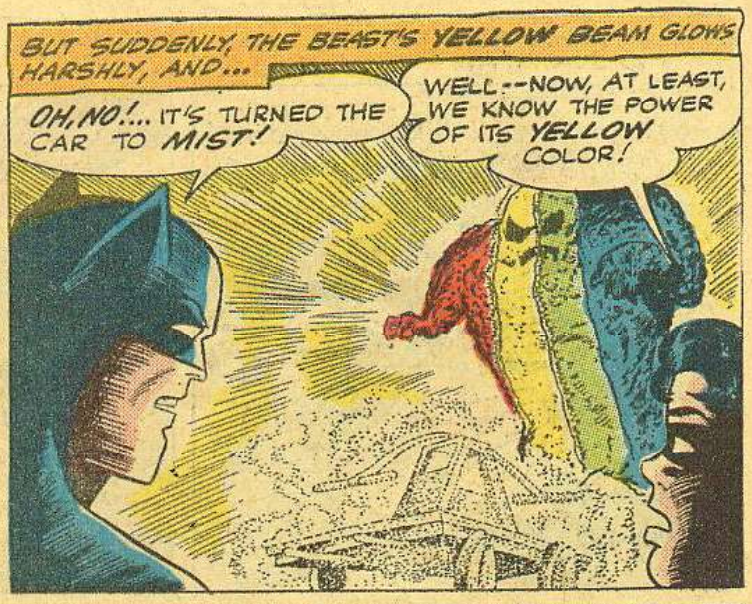
SHORTLY, AS THE SEARCH LEADS TO A LOCAL VILLAGE...

WITH THOSE WORDS, ICY FEAR CLUTCHES THE VILLAGERS...

AT THAT INSTANT...

LEAPING ATOP A HAND-CAR, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS START IT SPEEDING ALONG THE TRACK...

JUMP!
THIS SHOULD KNOCK THAT BABY FOR A LOOP!

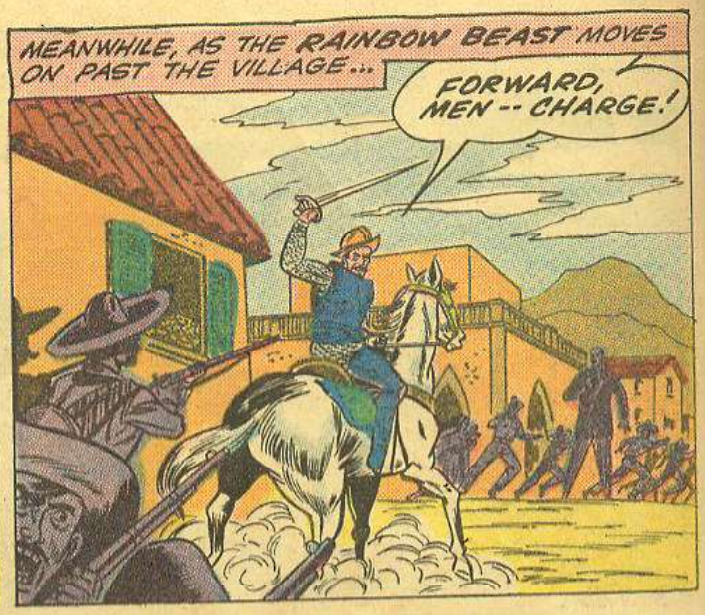

BUT SUDDENLY, THE BEAST'S YELLOW BEAM GLOWS HARSHLY, AND...
OH, NO!... IT'S TURNED THE CAR TO MIST!
WELL--NOW, AT LEAST, WE KNOW THE POWER OF ITS YELLOW COLOR!

THEN, AS THE CREATURE ADVANCES...
STRANGE... THIS IS THE TIME DIAZ SHOULD BE ATTACKING--BUT HE'S NOT! HIS MEN SEEM AFRAID! I WONDER...?

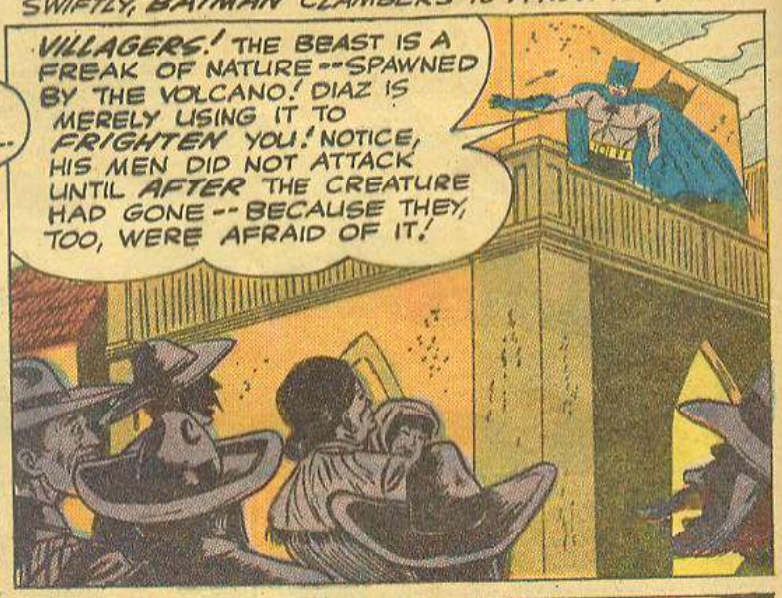
ONLY ONE THING TO DO NOW, ROBIN...SEE HOW WE FARE AGAINST THAT CREATURE IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT!
O-OKAY, BATMAN!

BUT ABRUPTLY...
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US?
THE GREEN AURA--IT'S MADE US AS THIN AS LEAVES!

LIKE LEAVES, INDEED, THE HELPLESS PAIR IS BORNE AWAY ON A PUFF OF WIND...
HOW LONG WILL WE REMAIN THIS WAY?
I--I DON'T KNOW, ROBIN!

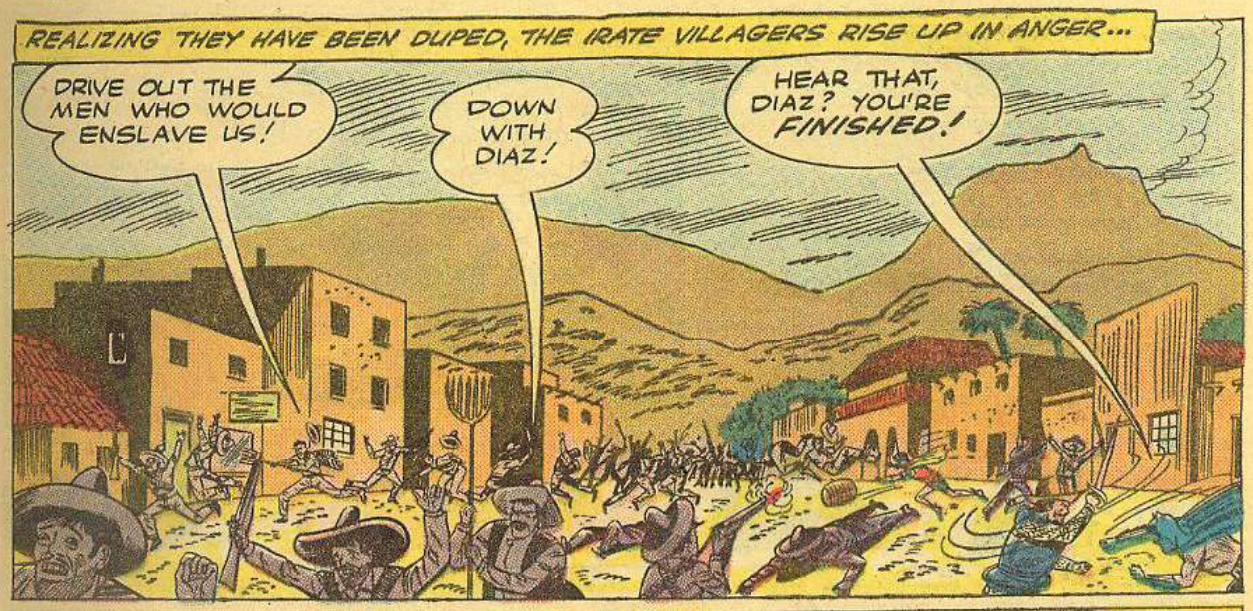

MEANWHILE, AS THE RAINBOW BEAST MOVES ON PAST THE VILLAGE...
FORWARD, MEN -- CHARGE!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT...
BATMAN!... WE'RE BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN!
YES--THE EFFECT WAS ONLY TEMPORARY AND--OH, OH... DIAZ IS ATTACKING--AND I THINK I KNOW WHY!

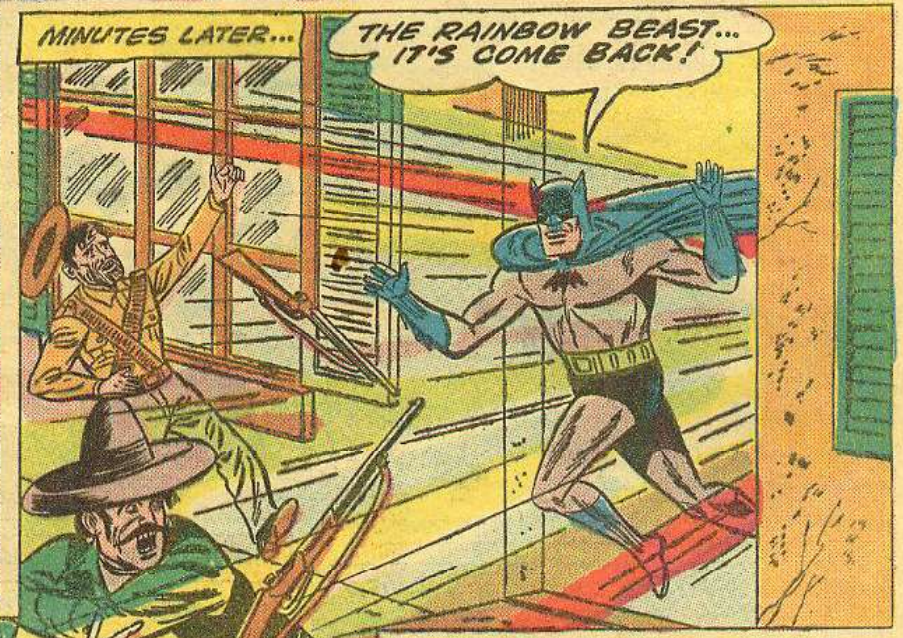

SWIFTLY, BATMAN CLAMBERS TO A ROOFTOP, AND...
VILLAGERS! THE BEAST IS A FREAK OF NATURE--SPAWNED BY THE VOLCANO! DIAZ IS MERELY USING IT TO FRIGHTEN YOU! NOTICE, HIS MEN DID NOT ATTACK UNTIL AFTER THE CREATURE HAD GONE--BECAUSE THEY, TOO, WERE AFRAID OF IT!

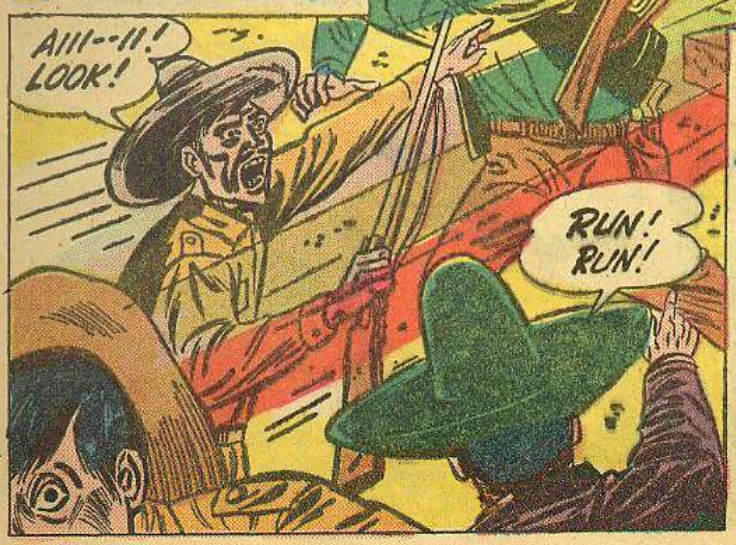
IF DIAZ CAN CONTROL THE BEAST, AS HE CLAIMS--WHY WOULD HIS OWN MEN BE AFRAID OF IT?
SILENCE HIM! SHOOT HIM DOWN!

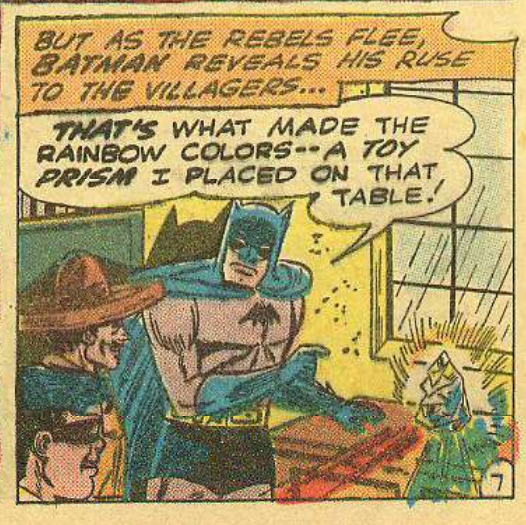
TOO LATE, DIAZ... THE PEOPLE ARE WISE TO YOU NOW!

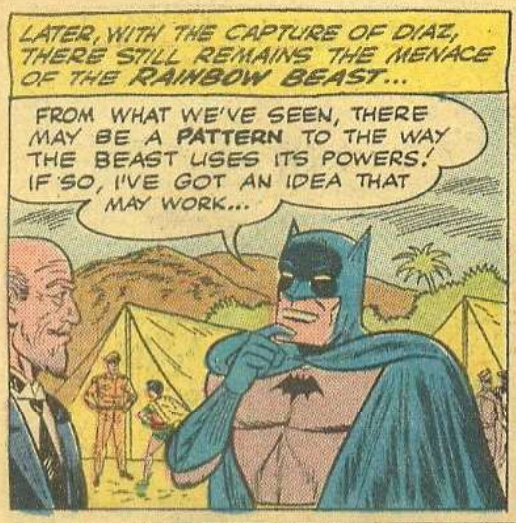

REALIZING THEY HAVE BEEN DUPED, THE IRATE VILLAGERS RISE UP IN ANGER...
DRIVE OUT THE MEN WHO WOULD ENSLAVE US!
DOWN WITH DIAZ!
HEAR THAT, DIAZ? YOU'RE FINISHED!

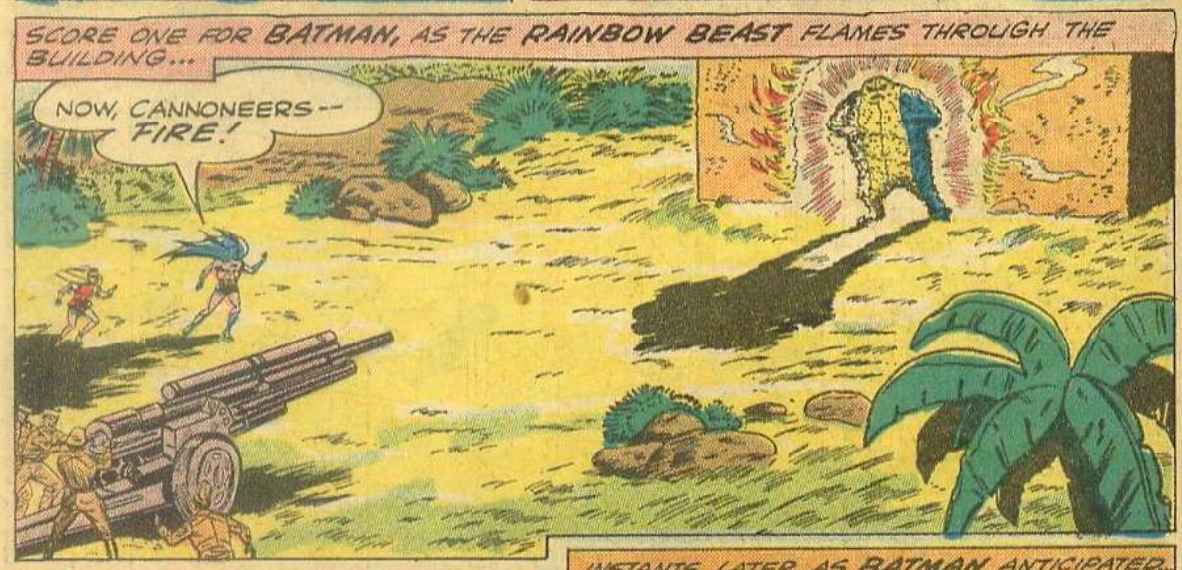
DIAZ'S SOLDIERS HAVE RIFLES--INNOCENT VILLAGERS MAY BE KILLED! HOW CAN I STOP IT? HMMM-- THERE'S A TOY SHOP ON THIS STREET... IT GIVES ME AN IDEA!


MINUTES LATER...
THE RAINBOW BEAST... IT'S COME BACK!


AIII--II! LOOK!
RUN! RUN!


BUT AS THE REBELS FLEE, BATMAN REVEALS HIS RUSE TO THE VILLAGERS...
THAT'S WHAT MADE THE RAINBOW COLORS--A TOY PRISM I PLACED ON THAT TABLE!





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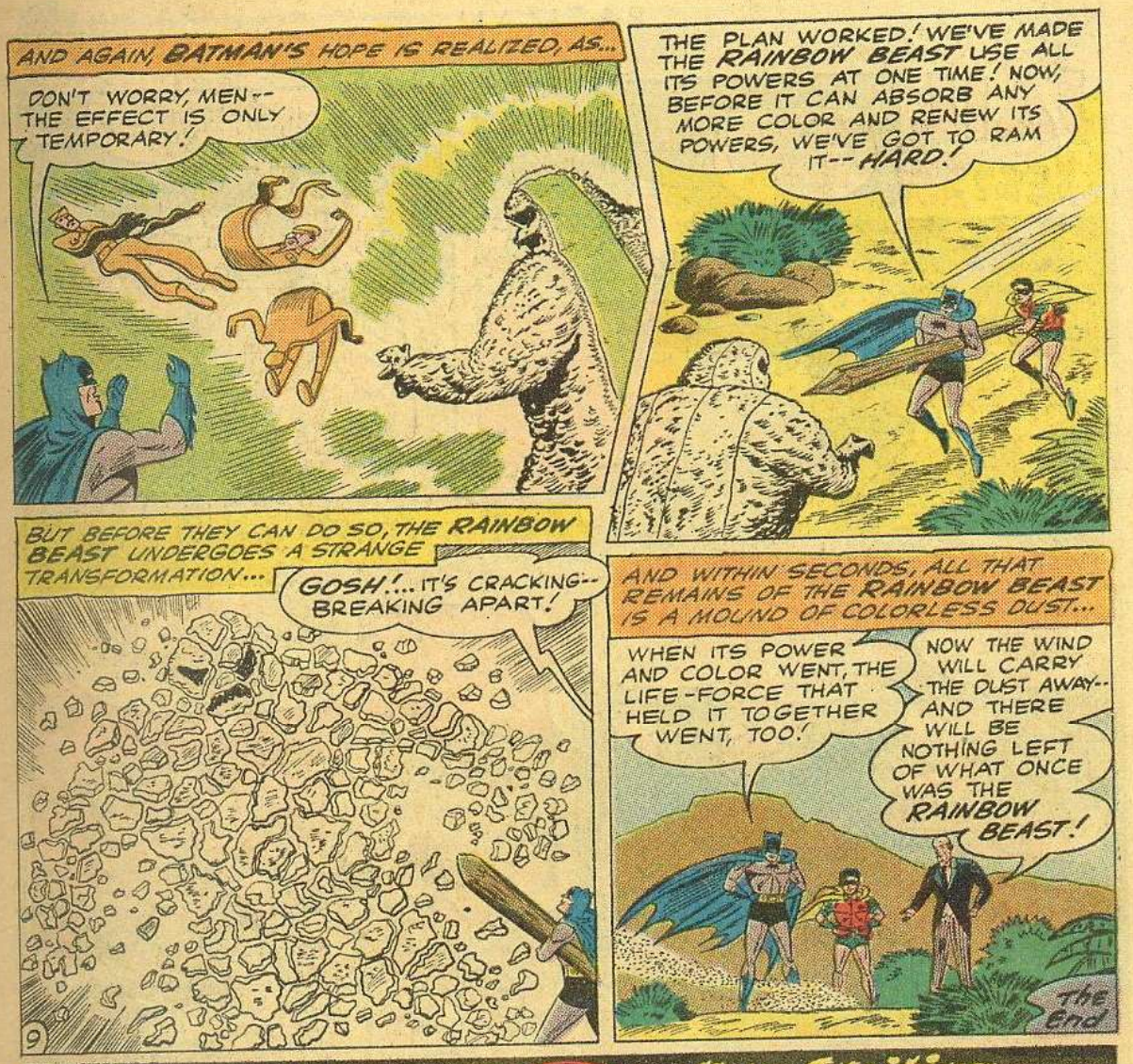

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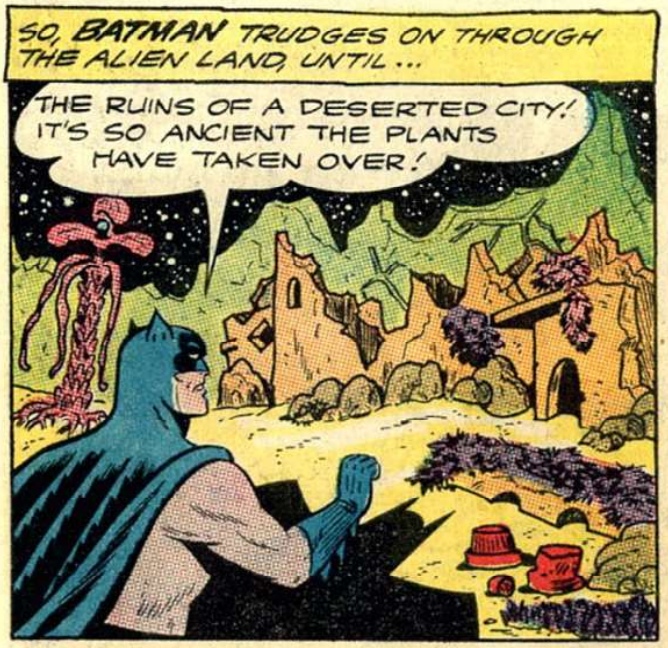
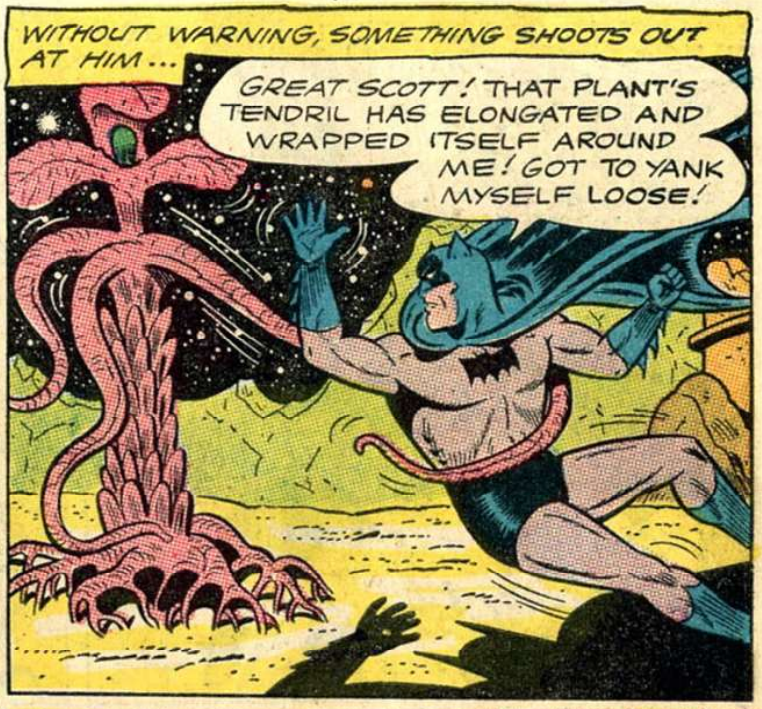
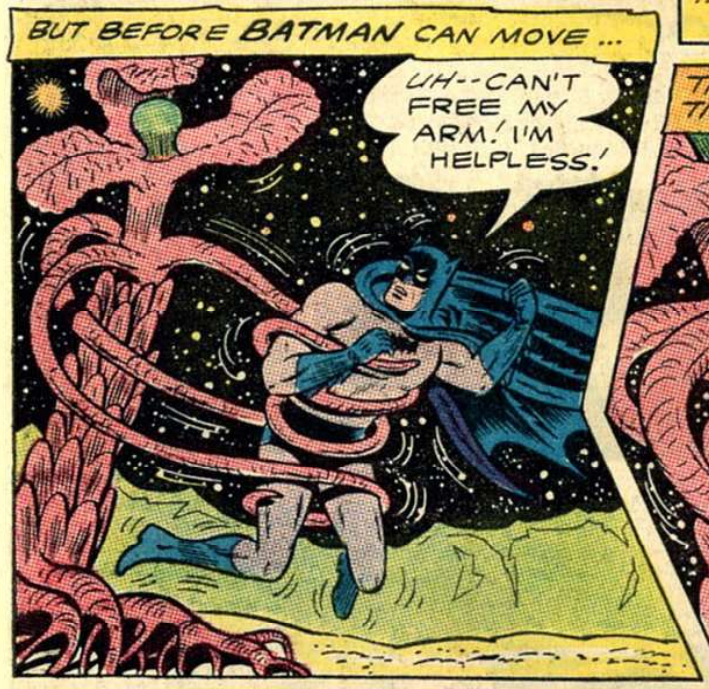
THE FRIENDSHIP OF BATMAN AND ROBIN IS ONE THAT HAS STOOD STEADFAST AS A ROCK! TO BATMAN, ROBIN IS LIKE HIS OWN SON -- AND ROBIN WOULD BRAVE ANY DANGER TO KEEP BATMAN FROM HARM! NOW THIS FRIENDSHIP BECOMES THE PIVOTAL POINT OF A STRANGE ADVENTURE IN A FANTASTIC WORLD -- A WORLD WHERE DOOM WAITS, AND WHERE BATMAN IS CONFRONTED BY THE TERRIBLE TRUTH THAT...
BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
ROBIN DIES AT DAWN
CHAPTER 1
IT'S COMING AFTER US! RUN, ROBIN-- RUN!
THE STONE IDOL IS ALIVE!
BOB KANE

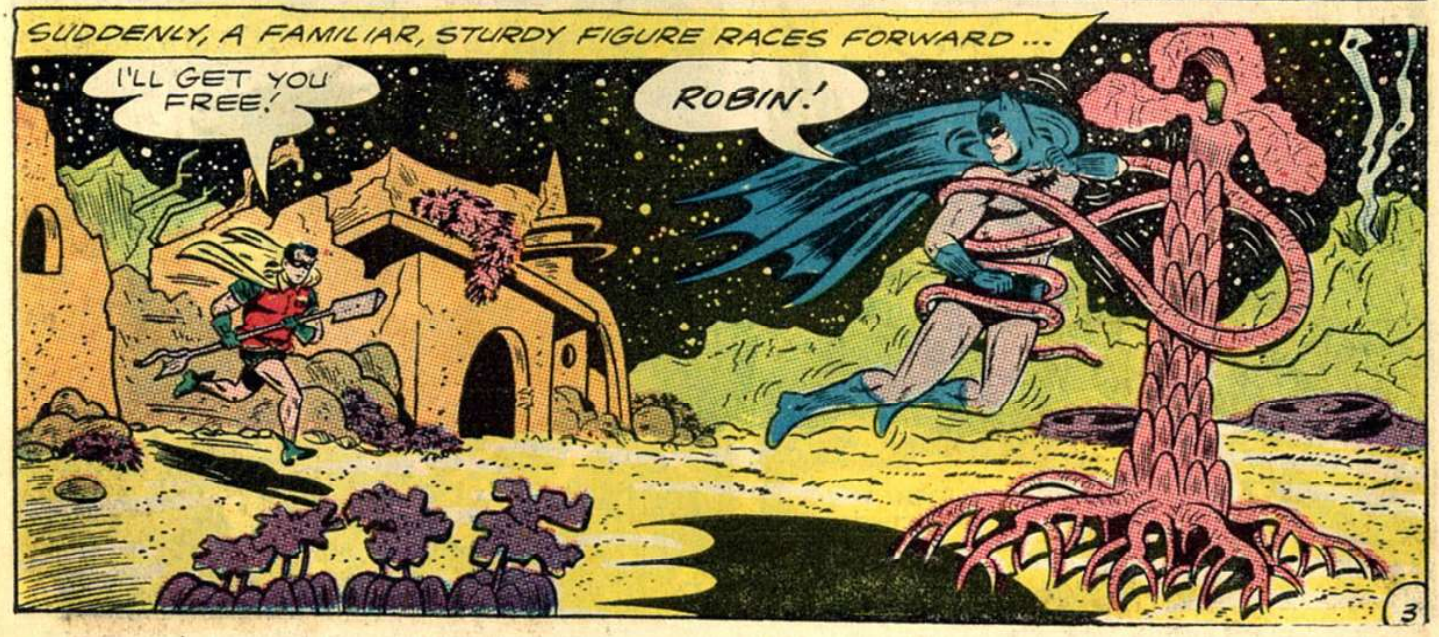
"WHERE IS BATMAN?" ROBIN WONDERS! AND THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTER SOON WONDERS, TOO-- FOR HIS WHEREABOUTS IS A MYSTERY TO HIMSELF!
ALL BATMAN KNOWS IS THAT HE IS BEING SWEPT ALONG BY SWIRLING LIGHTS THROUGH VAST REACHES OF SPACE...
THEN SAND CRUNCHES UNDER HIS FEET--AND AN UNFAMILIAR LANDSCAPE ENCIRLES HIM!
TWIN MOONS! I'M ON AN ALIEN PLANET!
THOSE SWIRLING LIGHTS-- WERE THEY AN ALIEN ENERGY THAT TRANS-MITTED ME HERE? I--I CAN'T REMEMBER! MAYBE ALIENS DELIBERATELY ERASED MY MEMORY! BUT WHY? WHAT IS IT THEY DON'T WANT ME TO REMEMBER?
MY UTILITY-BELT IS GONE-- WITH MY BAT-ROPE AND BATARANGS! I'VE BEEN MADE DEFENSELESS-- THRUST ON AN ALIEN WORLD-- AND I DON'T KNOW WHY!
THEN BATMAN IS TOUCHED BY A TINY FEAR-- THE INSTINCTIVE FEAR OF ANY MAN WHO IS ISOLATED AND WEAPONLESS-- AND CONFRONTED BY THE UNKNOWN!
IT'S NOT KNOWING THAT'S SO DISQUIETING! AND SOMEHOW I SENSE TERRIBLE DANGER-- WAITING! I--I'VE NEVER FELT SO ALONE IN ALL MY LIFE...
2


SO, BATMAN TRUDGES ON THROUGH THE ALIEN LAND, UNTIL ...
THE RUINS OF A DESERTED CITY! IT'S SO ANCIENT THE PLANTS HAVE TAKEN OVER!


WITHOUT WARNING, SOMETHING SHOOTS OUT AT HIM ...
GREAT SCOTT! THAT PLANT'S TENDRIL HAS ELONGATED AND WRAPPED ITSELF AROUND ME! GOT TO YANK MYSELF LOOSE!


BUT BEFORE BATMAN CAN MOVE ...
UH--CAN'T FREE MY ARM! I'M HELPLESS!

THEN AS THE TERRIBLE PLANT RELENTLESSLY TIGHTENS ITS GRIP...
IF ONLY ROBIN WERE HERE TO HELP ME! ROBIN! WHERE ARE YOU, ROBIN? ROBIN!


SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR, STURDY FIGURE RACES FORWARD ...
I'LL GET YOU FREE!
ROBIN!

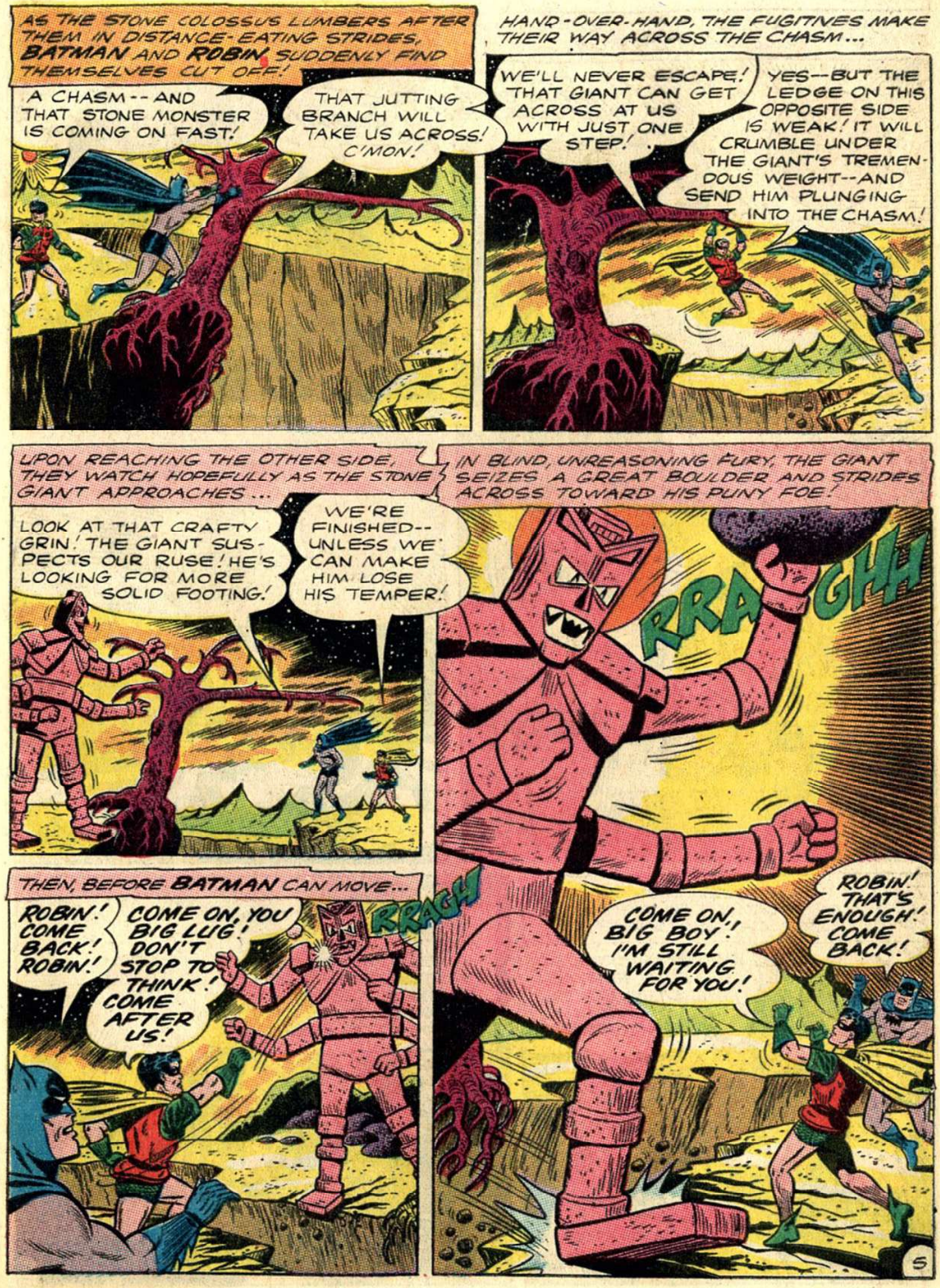
ALL RIGHT NOW?
CRACK
YES-- THE TENDRILS HAVE RELAXED THEIR GRIP!

ROBIN-- HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
NO TIME TO TALK NOW! MORE PLANTS ARE COMING! THEY CAN WALK! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE--FAST!

LATER...
THE SUN! DAWN'S APPROACHING!
WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY? WHY DO I FEEL THAT THERE ARE EYES WATCHING-- EYES WITH HUMAN INTELLIGENCE!

LOOK! A GIANT STATUE!
IT MUST BE AN IDOL THAT THE ALIENS WORSHIP!

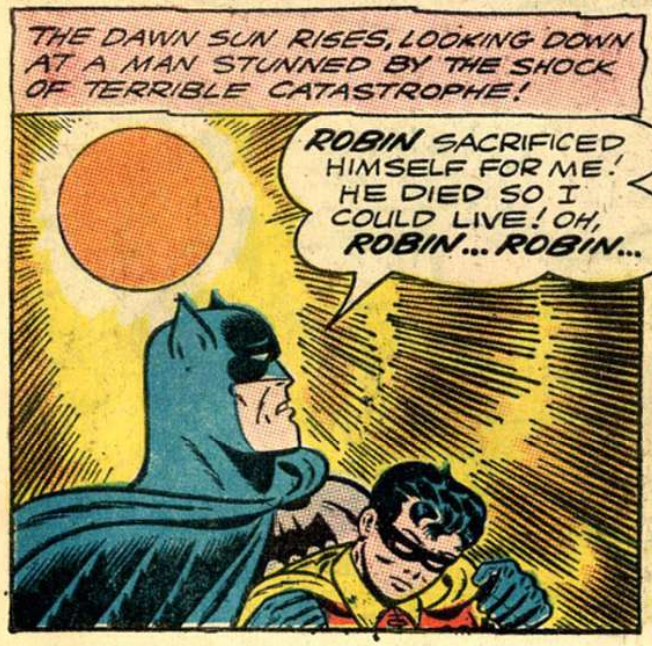
THEN, AMAZINGLY, THE STONE FIGURE SUDDENLY REARS ERECT!
IT'S ALIVE-- AND COMING AFTER US! RUN, ROBIN-- RUN!

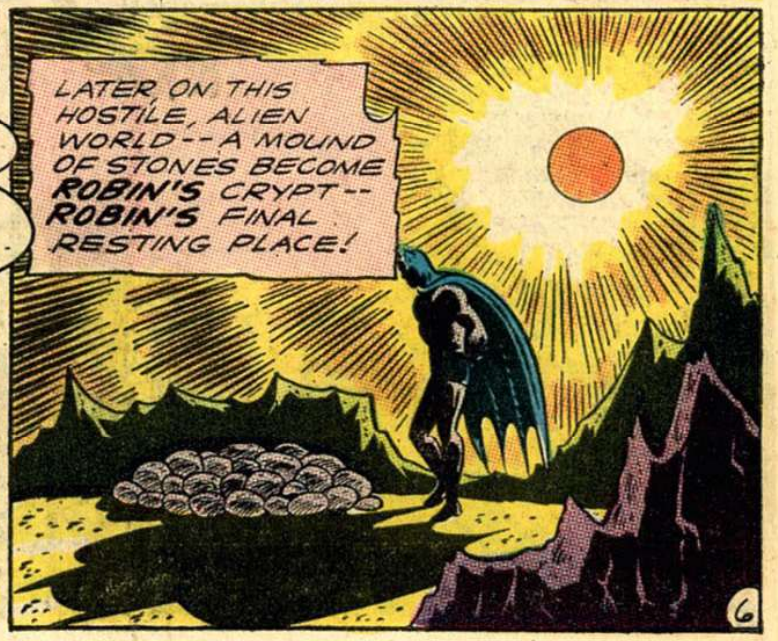

AS THE STONE COLOSSUS LUMBERS AFTER THEM IN DISTANCE-EATING STRIDES, BATMAN AND ROBIN SUDDENLY FIND THEMSELVES CUT OFF!
A CHASM -- AND THAT STONE MONSTER IS COMING ON FAST!
THAT JUTTING BRANCH WILL TAKE US ACROSS! C'MON!
HAND-OVER-HAND, THE FUGITIVES MAKE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE CHASM...
WE'LL NEVER ESCAPE! THAT GIANT CAN GET ACROSS AT US WITH JUST ONE STEP!
YES--BUT THE LEDGE ON THIS OPPOSITE SIDE IS WEAK! IT WILL CRUMBLE UNDER THE GIANT'S TREMENDOUS WEIGHT--AND SEND HIM PLUNGING INTO THE CHASM!
UPON REACHING THE OTHER SIDE, THEY WATCH HOPEFULLY AS THE STONE GIANT APPROACHES...
LOOK AT THAT CRAFTY GRIN! THE GIANT SUSPECTS OUR RUSE! HE'S LOOKING FOR MORE SOLID FOOTING!
WE'RE FINISHED-- UNLESS WE CAN MAKE HIM LOSE HIS TEMPER!
IN BLIND, UNREASONING FURY, THE GIANT SEIZES A GREAT BOULDER AND STRIDES ACROSS TOWARD HIS PUNY FOE!
RRAGHH
THEN, BEFORE BATMAN CAN MOVE...
ROBIN! COME BACK! ROBIN!
COME ON, YOU BIG LUG! DON'T STOP TO THINK! COME AFTER US!
RRAGH
COME ON, BIG BOY! I'M STILL WAITING FOR YOU!
ROBIN! THAT'S ENOUGH! COME BACK!
5

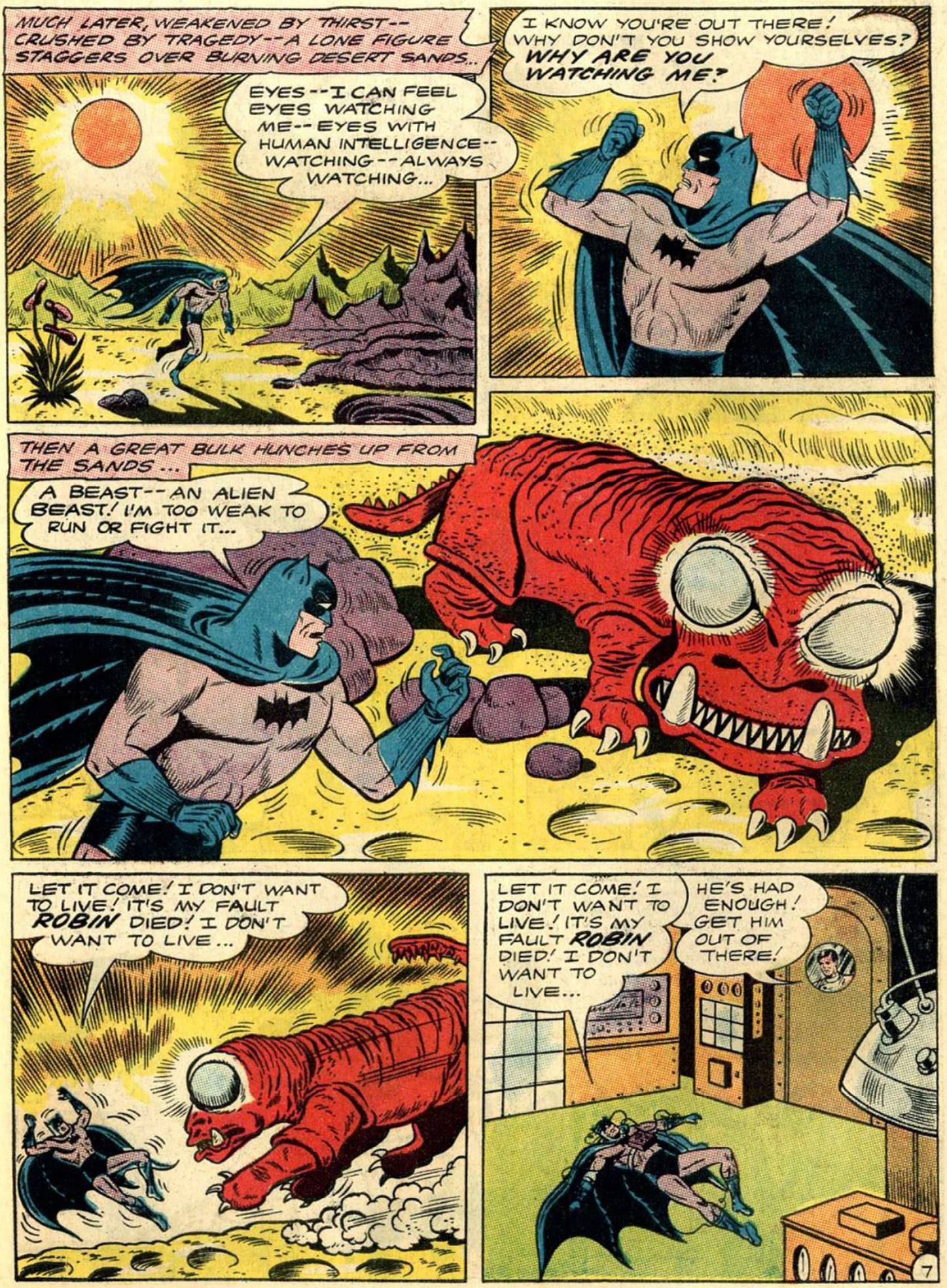
AS THE WEAK LEDGE CRUMBLES UNDER THE GIANT'S COLOSSAL WEIGHT...
ROBIN! WATCH OUT!-- THAT BOULDER!
UHHH!

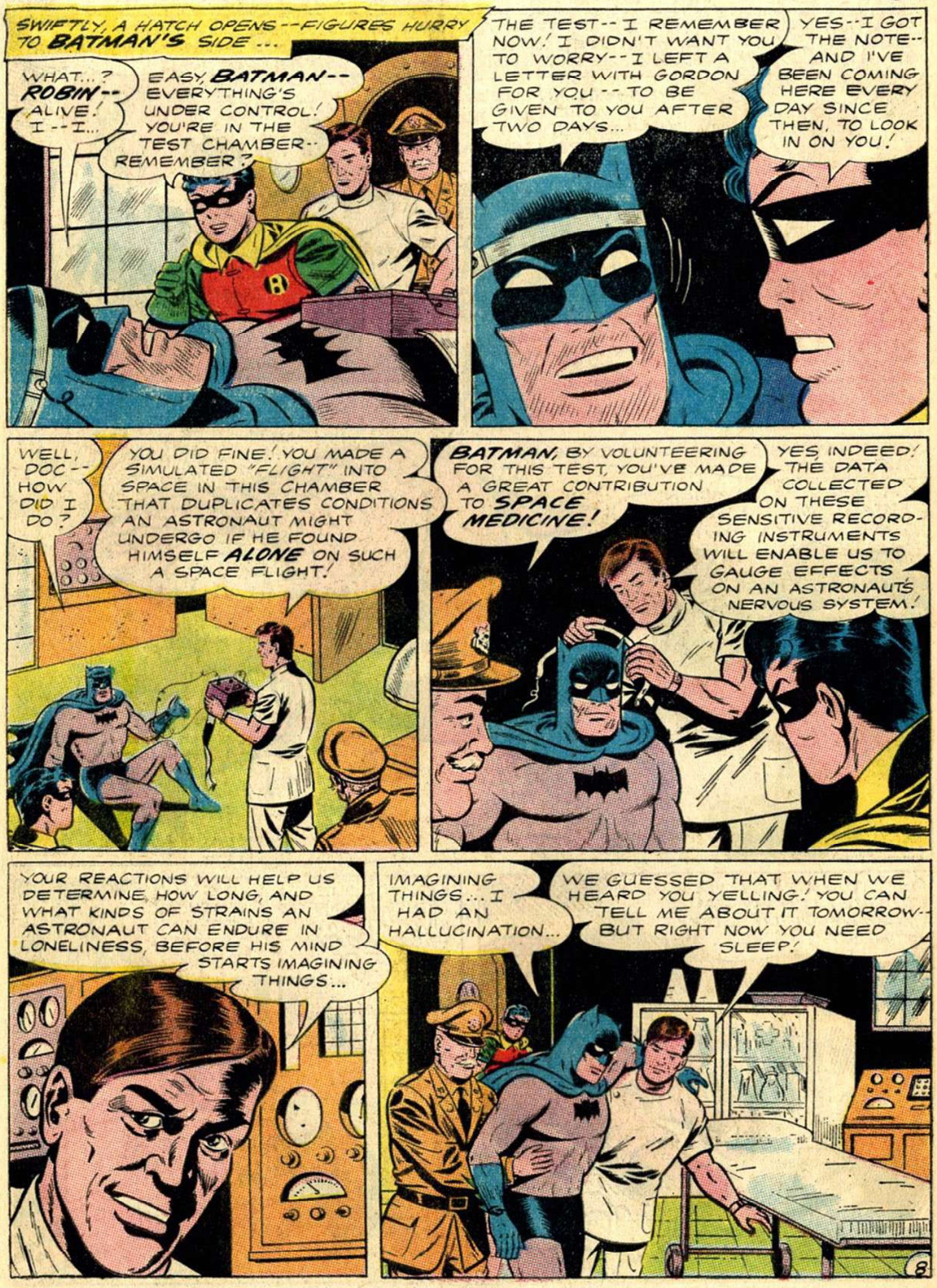
ROBIN!

EVEN AS HE FEELS FOR A PULSE BEAT, BATMAN KNOWS IT IS NO USE!
HE--HE'S DEAD! ROBIN'S DEAD!


THE DAWN SUN RISES, LOOKING DOWN AT A MAN STUNNED BY THE SHOCK OF TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE!
ROBIN SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR ME! HE DIED SO I COULD LIVE! OH, ROBIN... ROBIN...


LATER ON THIS HOSTILE, ALIEN WORLD--A MOUND OF STONES BECOME ROBIN'S CRYPT-- ROBIN'S FINAL RESTING PLACE!


MUCH LATER, WEAKENED BY THIRST-- CRUSHED BY TRAGEDY--A LONE FIGURE STAGGERS OVER BURNING DESERT SANDS..
EYES--I CAN FEEL EYES WATCHING ME--EYES WITH HUMAN INTELLIGENCE-- WATCHING--ALWAYS WATCHING...
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE! WHY DON'T YOU SHOW YOURSELVES? WHY ARE YOU WATCHING ME?
THEN A GREAT BULK HUNCHES UP FROM THE SANDS...
A BEAST--AN ALIEN BEAST! I'M TOO WEAK TO RUN OR FIGHT IT...
LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT ROBIN DIED! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE...
LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT ROBIN DIED! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE...
HE'S HAD ENOUGH! GET HIM OUT OF THERE!


SWIFTLY, A HATCH OPENS--FIGURES HURRY TO BATMAN'S SIDE ...
WHAT...? ROBIN--ALIVE! I--I...
EASY, BATMAN--EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL! YOU'RE IN THE TEST CHAMBER--REMEMBER?
THE TEST--I REMEMBER NOW! I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY--I LEFT A LETTER WITH GORDON FOR YOU--TO BE GIVEN TO YOU AFTER TWO DAYS...
YES--I GOT THE NOTE--AND I'VE BEEN COMING HERE EVERY DAY SINCE THEN, TO LOOK IN ON YOU!
WELL, DOC--HOW DID I DO?
YOU DID FINE! YOU MADE A SIMULATED "FLIGHT" INTO SPACE IN THIS CHAMBER THAT DUPLICATES CONDITIONS AN ASTRONAUT MIGHT UNDERGO IF HE FOUND HIMSELF ALONE ON SUCH A SPACE FLIGHT!
BATMAN, BY VOLUNTEERING FOR THIS TEST, YOU'VE MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO SPACE MEDICINE!
YES, INDEED! THE DATA COLLECTED ON THESE SENSITIVE RECORDING INSTRUMENTS WILL ENABLE US TO GAUGE EFFECTS ON AN ASTRONAUT'S NERVOUS SYSTEM!
YOUR REACTIONS WILL HELP US DETERMINE, HOW LONG, AND WHAT KINDS OF STRAINS AN ASTRONAUT CAN ENDURE IN LONELINESS, BEFORE HIS MIND STARTS IMAGINING THINGS...
IMAGINING THINGS... I HAD AN HALLUCINATION...
WE GUESSED THAT WHEN WE HEARD YOU YELLING! YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT IT TOMORROW--BUT RIGHT NOW YOU NEED SLEEP!

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CHAPTER 2 ROBIN DIES AT DAWN

HOMEWARD BOUND, **ROBIN** BRIEFS **BATMAN** ON THE **ANT-MAN** CASE, WHEN...

ACME LOAN CO.

ROBIN, DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE? **GORILLAS** ESCAPING WITH MONEY FROM THAT LOAN COMPANY!

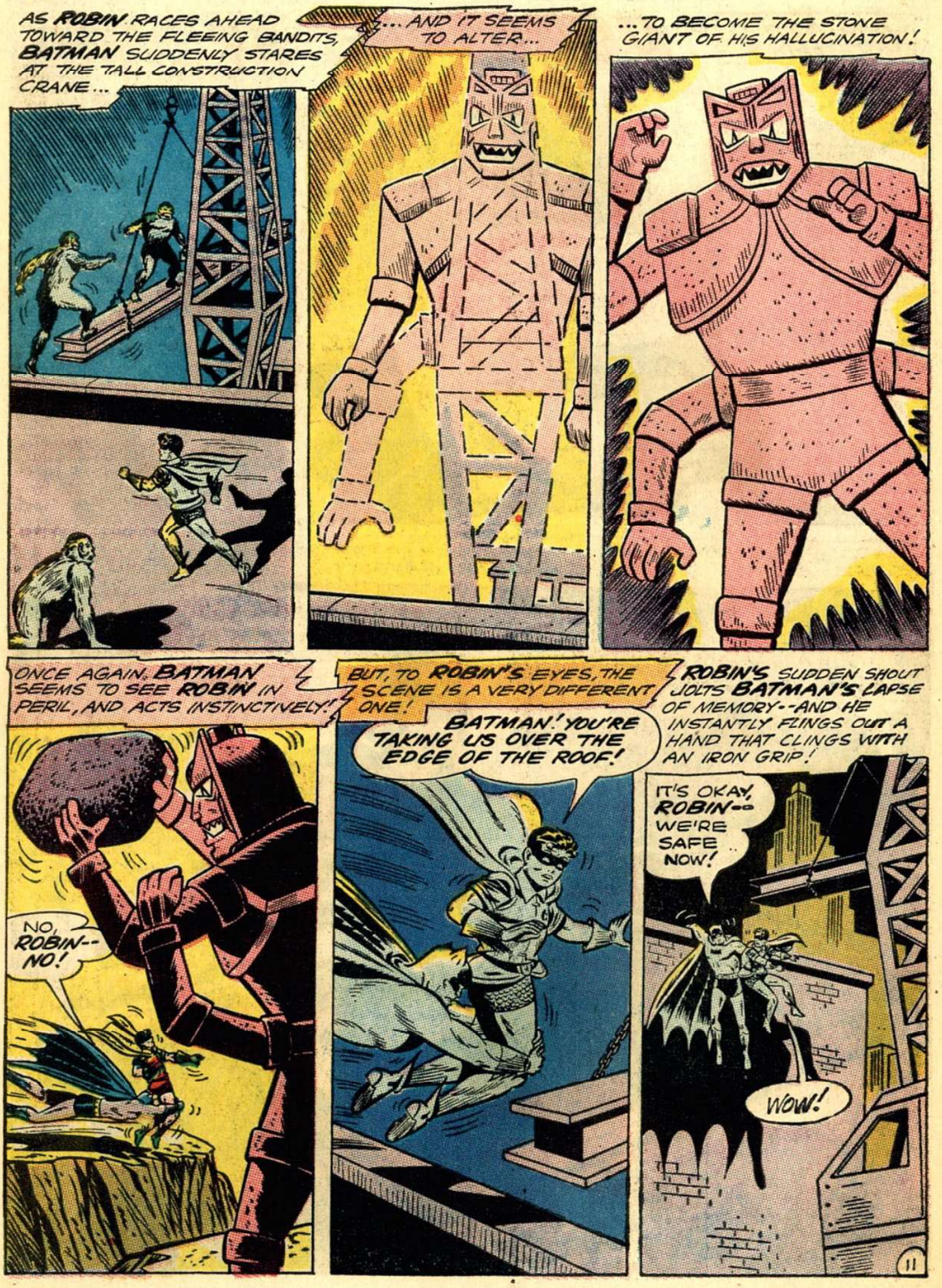
THEY'RE ONLY MEN WEARING GORILLA COSTUMES, **BATMAN!** ACCORDING TO POLICE REPORTS, THE **GORILLA GANG** HAS BEEN OPERATING IN VARIOUS CITIES! NOW THEY'VE COME TO **GOTHAM CITY**-- SO LET'S GIVE THEM A FITTING "WELCOME"!

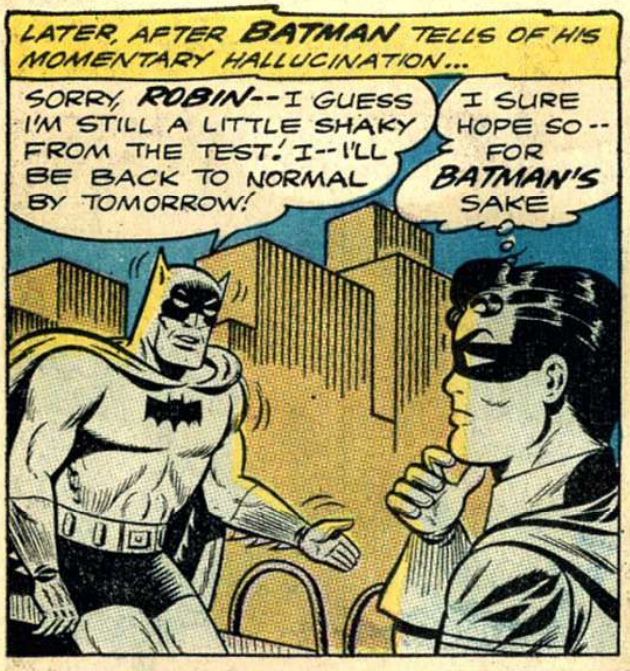
SWIFTLY, SILENTLY, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** DART UP THE FIRE-ESCAPE --AND CHARGE INTO THE **GORILLA GANG!**

NOW LET'S MAKE MONKEYS OUT OF THESE APES!

BATMAN AND **ROBIN!** QUICK-- WE'LL HAVE TO ESCAPE TO THE NEXT BUILDING, OVER THE DANGLING GIRDER!

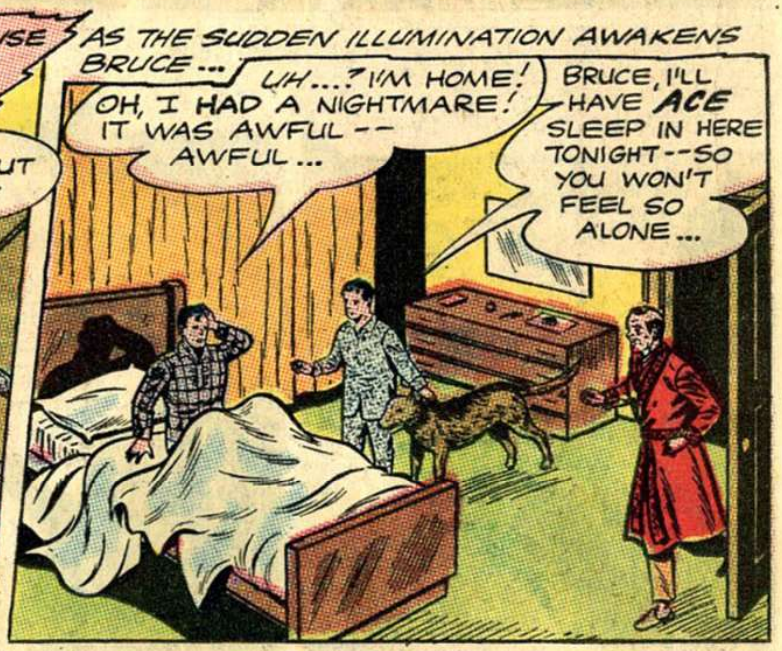
ACME LOAN


AS ROBIN RACES AHEAD TOWARD THE FLEEING BANDITS, BATMAN SUDDENLY STARES AT THE TALL CONSTRUCTION CRANE...
...AND IT SEEMS TO ALTER...
...TO BECOME THE STONE GIANT OF HIS HALLUCINATION!
ONCE AGAIN, BATMAN SEEMS TO SEE ROBIN IN PERIL, AND ACTS INSTINCTIVELY!
NO, ROBIN-- NO!
BUT, TO ROBIN'S EYES, THE SCENE IS A VERY DIFFERENT ONE!
BATMAN! YOU'RE TAKING US OVER THE EDGE OF THE ROOF!
ROBIN'S SUDDEN SHOUT JOLTS BATMAN'S LAPSE OF MEMORY--AND HE INSTANTLY FLINGS OUT A HAND THAT CLINGS WITH AN IRON GRIP!
IT'S OKAY, ROBIN-- WE'RE SAFE NOW!
WOW!

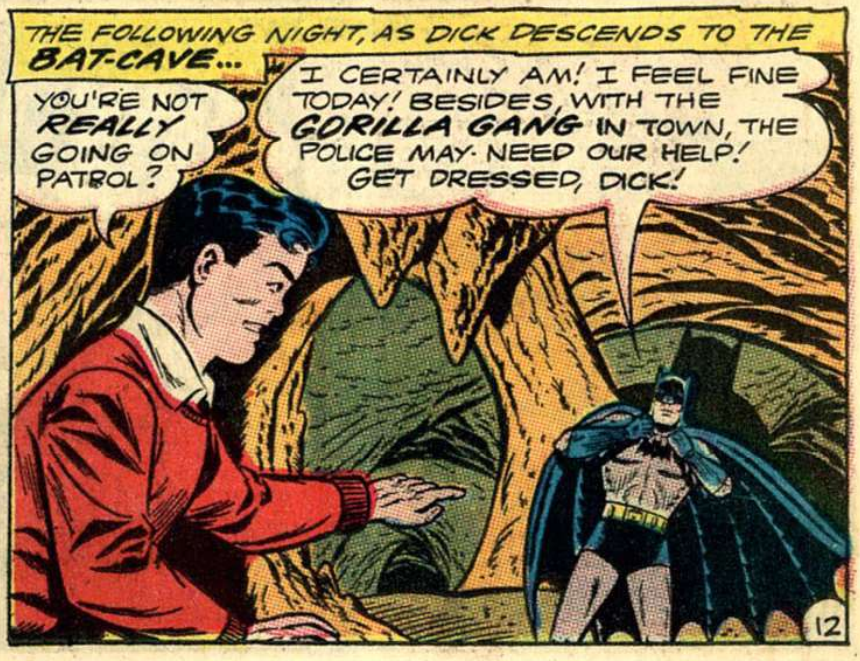

LATER, AFTER BATMAN TELLS OF HIS MOMENTARY HALLUCINATION...
SORRY, ROBIN--I GUESS I'M STILL A LITTLE SHAKY FROM THE TEST! I--I'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL BY TOMORROW!
I SURE HOPE SO--FOR BATMAN'S SAKE

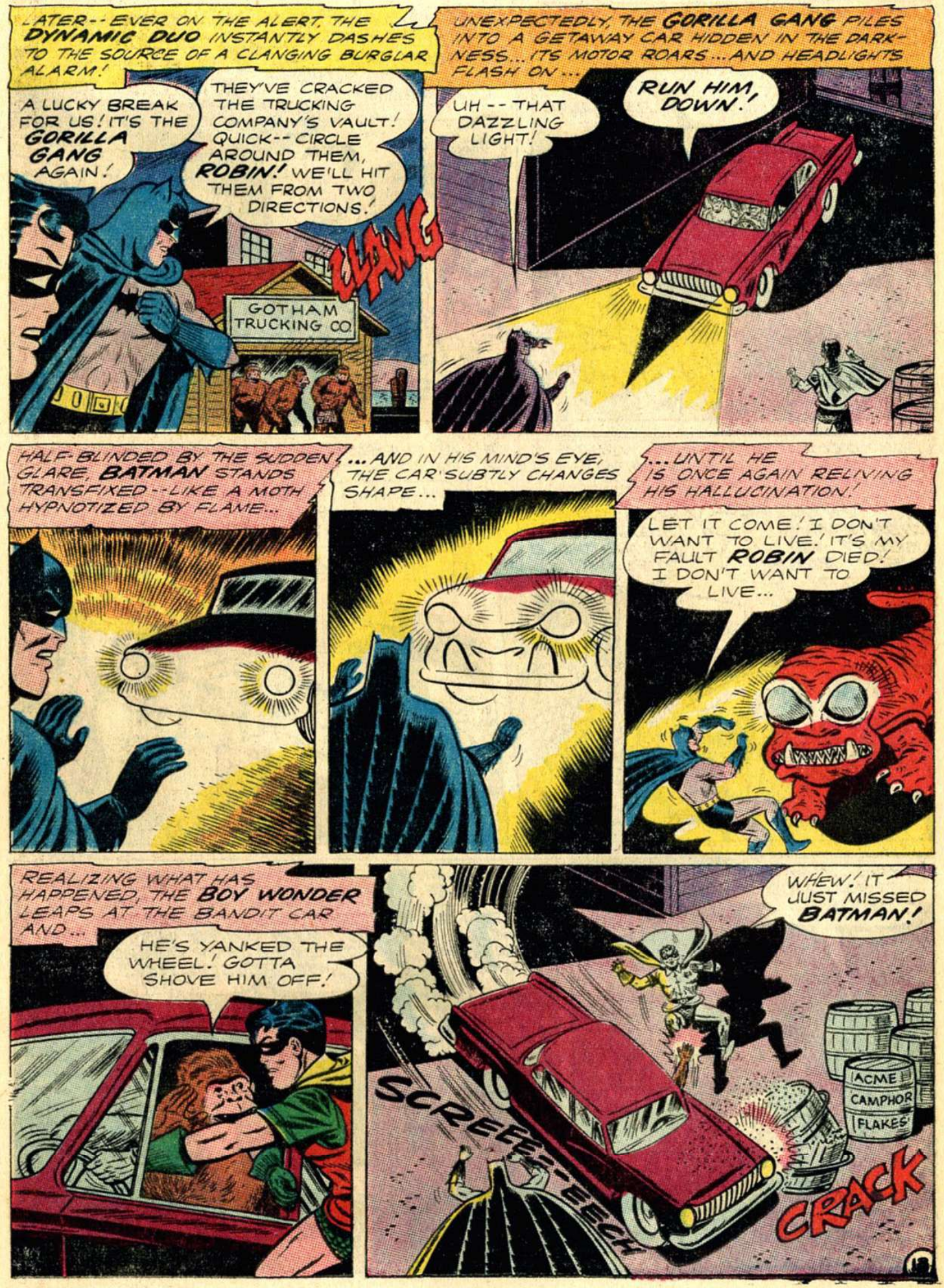
LATER, AT THE WAYNE MANSION, BRUCE'S RETURN IS EAGERLY AWAITED BY TWO LOYAL FRIENDS!
ALFRED! ACE! AH, IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK HOME AGAIN!
WE ALL MISSED YOU, SIR!

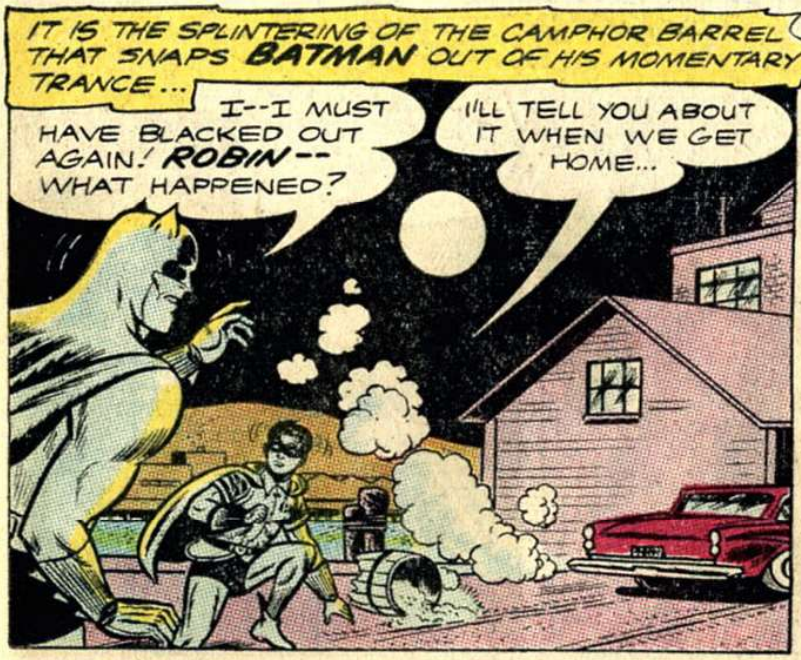
FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING! THE HOUSE IS QUIET--UNTIL A SHOUT SENDS DICK BURSTING INTO BRUCE'S ROOM...
THE TENTACLES--TIGHTENING ABOUT ME! HELP! ROBIN! HELP!
GOSH! HE'S DREAMING ABOUT THE TENTACLE-PLANT!
CLICK

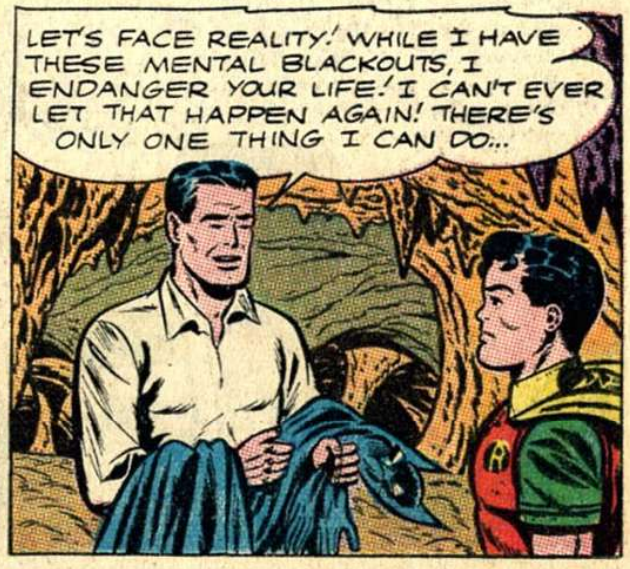

AS THE SUDDEN ILLUMINATION AWAKENS BRUCE...
UH...? I'M HOME!
OH, I HAD A NIGHTMARE! IT WAS AWFUL--AWFUL...
BRUCE, I'LL HAVE ACE SLEEP IN HERE TONIGHT--SO YOU WON'T FEEL SO ALONE...

Y-YES... MAYBE THAT WOULD BE BETTER...

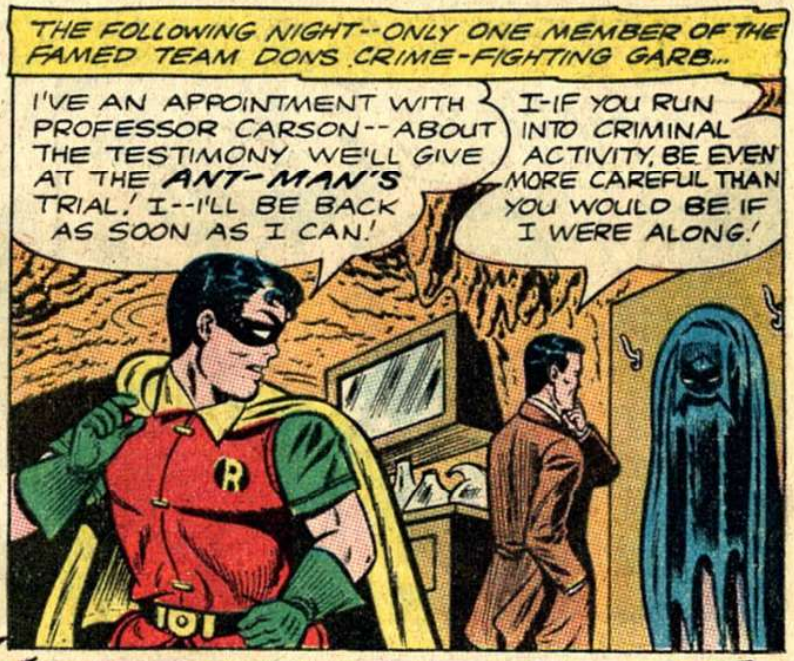

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS DICK DESCENDS TO THE BAT-CAVE...
YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING ON PATROL?
I CERTAINLY AM! I FEEL FINE TODAY! BESIDES, WITH THE GORILLA GANG IN TOWN, THE POLICE MAY NEED OUR HELP! GET DRESSED, DICK!


LATER--EVER ON THE ALERT, THE DYNAMIC DUO INSTANTLY DASHES TO THE SOURCE OF A CLANGING BURGLAR ALARM!
A LUCKY BREAK FOR US! IT'S THE GORILLA GANG AGAIN!
THEY'VE CRACKED THE TRUCKING COMPANY'S VAULT! QUICK--CIRCLE AROUND THEM, ROBIN! WE'LL HIT THEM FROM TWO DIRECTIONS!
CLANG
GOTHAM TRUCKING CO.
UNEXPECTEDLY, THE GORILLA GANG PILES INTO A GETAWAY CAR HIDDEN IN THE DARKNESS... ITS MOTOR ROARS... AND HEADLIGHTS FLASH ON...
UH--THAT DAZZLING LIGHT!
RUN HIM DOWN!
HALF-BLINDED BY THE SUDDEN GLARE, BATMAN STANDS TRANSFIXED--LIKE A MOTH HYPNOTIZED BY FLAME...
...AND IN HIS MIND'S EYE, THE CAR SUBTLY CHANGES SHAPE...
...UNTIL HE IS ONCE AGAIN RELIVING HIS HALLUCINATION!
LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT ROBIN DIED! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE...
REALIZING WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THE BOY WONDER LEAPS AT THE BANDIT CAR AND...
HE'S YANKED THE WHEEL! GOTTA SHOVE HIM OFF!
WHEW! IT JUST MISSED BATMAN!
SCREEE--EECH
ACME CAMPHOR FLAKES
CRACK


IT IS THE SPLINTERING OF THE CAMPHOR BARREL THAT SNAPS BATMAN OUT OF HIS MOMENTARY TRANCE...
I--I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT AGAIN! ROBIN-- WHAT HAPPENED?
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT WHEN WE GET HOME...

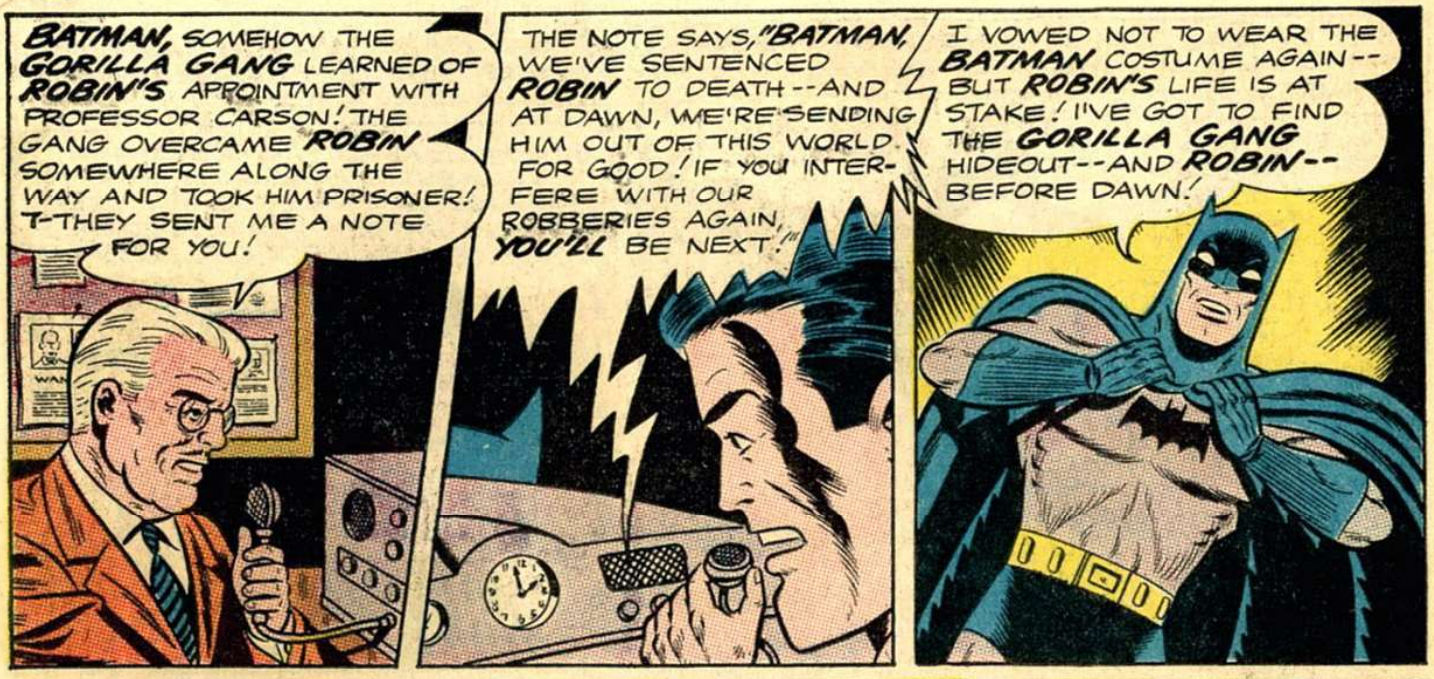

LATER, BATMAN AT LAST REALIZES THERE IS SOMETHING VERY, VERY WRONG WITH HIM...
LET'S FACE REALITY! WHILE I HAVE THESE MENTAL BLACKOUTS, I ENDANGER YOUR LIFE! I CAN'T EVER LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO...

...I MUST PUT AWAY MY BATMAN COSTUME AND RETIRE FROM CRIME-FIGHTING!
OH, BATMAN! -SOB-

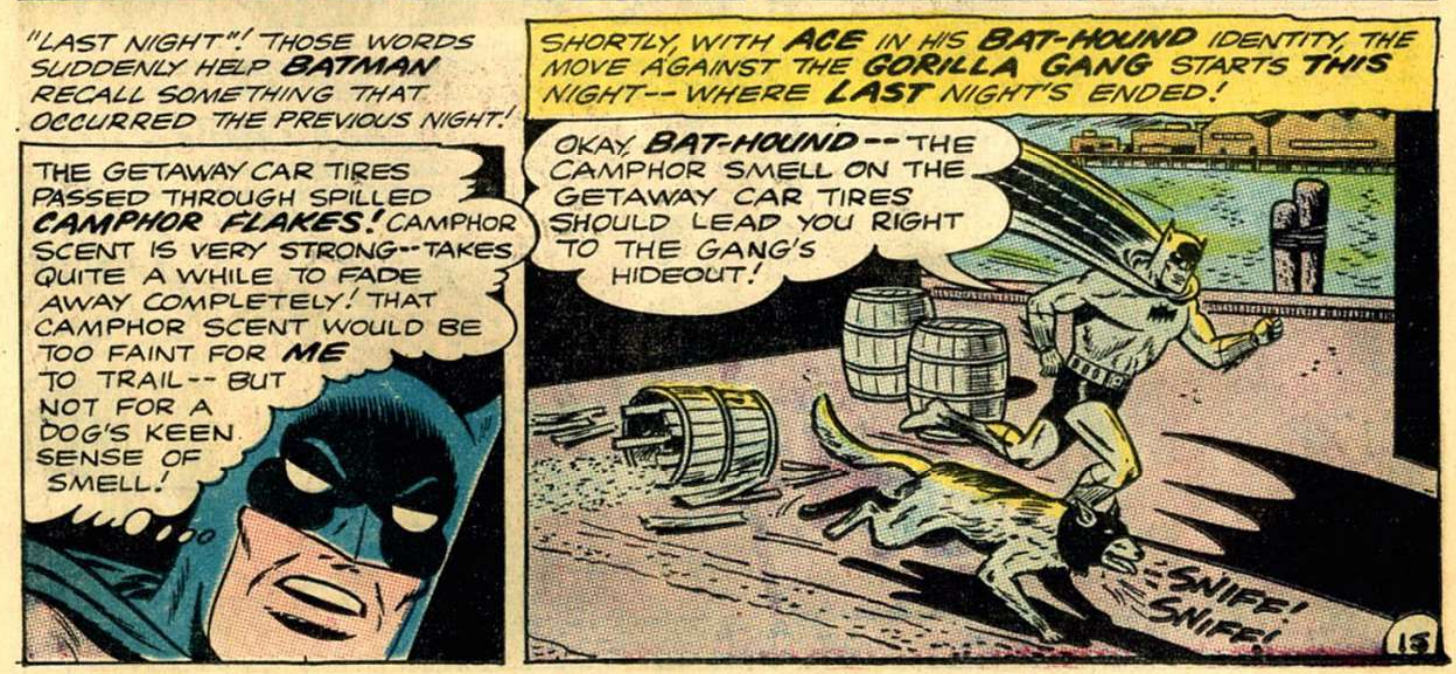

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT--ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE FAMED TEAM DONS CRIME-FIGHTING GARB...
I'VE AN APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR CARSON--ABOUT THE TESTIMONY WE'LL GIVE AT THE ANT-MAN'S TRIAL! I--I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN!
I-IF YOU RUN INTO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, BE EVEN MORE CAREFUL THAN YOU WOULD BE IF I WERE ALONG!

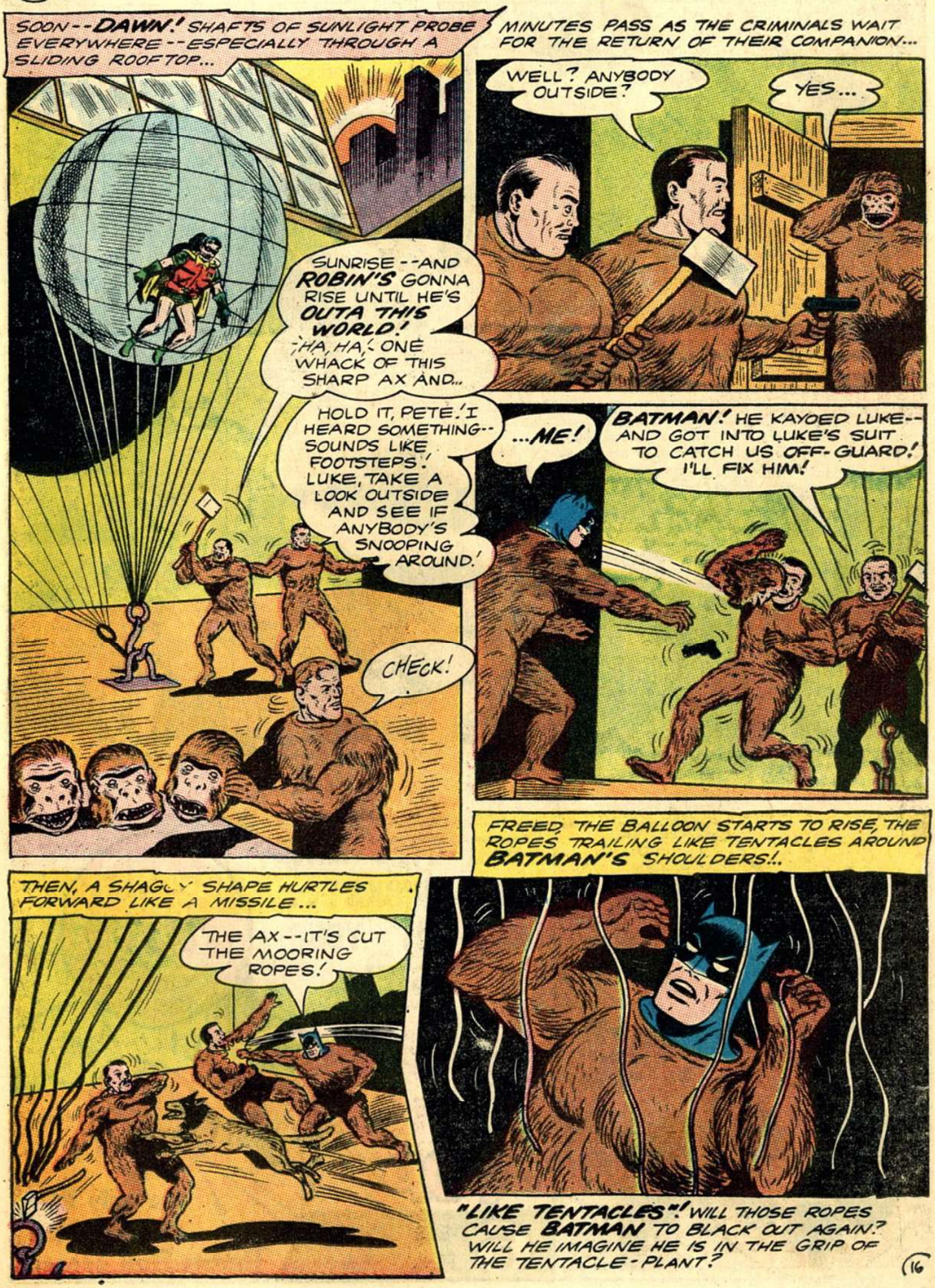
BUT ONE THING ROBIN KEEPS FROM BATMAN IS A SECRET APPOINTMENT WITH THE ARMY DOCTOR...
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! BATMAN WILL NEED TREATMENT! THEN, EVENTUALLY, HE WILL BE HIMSELF AGAIN-- BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME...

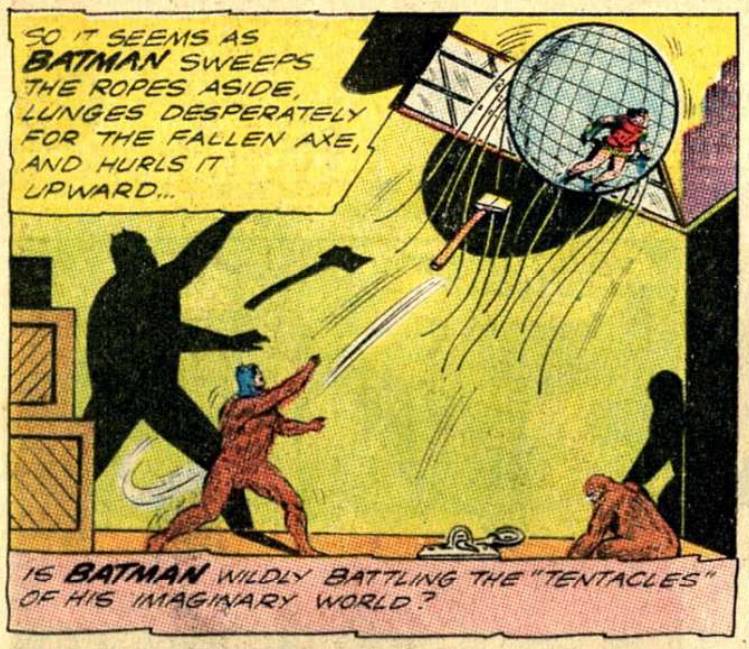
HOURS PASS, AND KEEPING HIS VIGIL IN THE BAT-CAVE, BRUCE IS GETTING WORRIED, WHEN...
THE EMERGENCY BAT-SIGNAL FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON! I'D BETTER CONTACT HIM AT ONCE ON THE BATMOBILE'S TWO-WAY RADIO!
BBZZZZZ

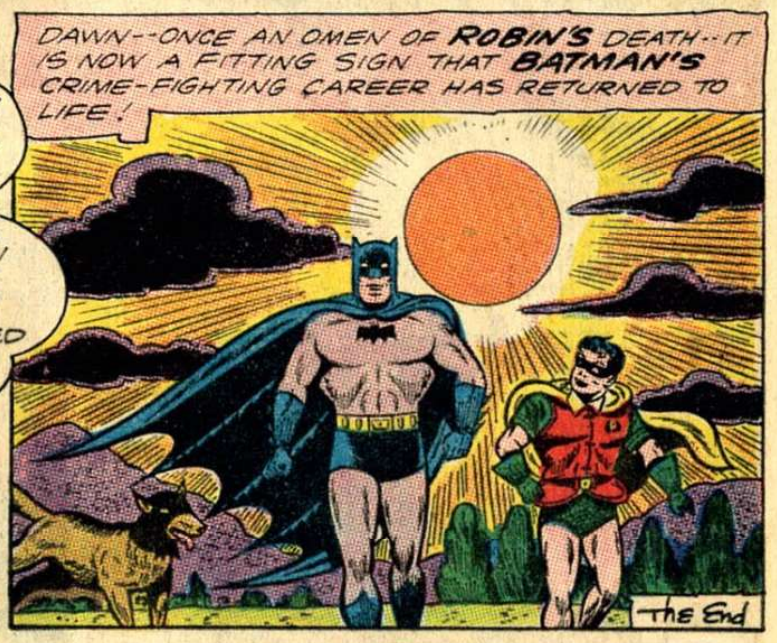

BATMAN, SOMEHOW THE GORILLA GANG LEARNED OF ROBIN'S APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR CARSON! THE GANG OVERCAME ROBIN SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY AND TOOK HIM PRISONER! T-THEY SENT ME A NOTE FOR YOU!
THE NOTE SAYS, "BATMAN, WE'VE SENTENCED ROBIN TO DEATH--AND AT DAWN, WE'RE SENDING HIM OUT OF THIS WORLD FOR GOOD! IF YOU INTERFERE WITH OUR ROBBERIES AGAIN, YOU'LL BE NEXT!"
I VOWED NOT TO WEAR THE BATMAN COSTUME AGAIN-- BUT ROBIN'S LIFE IS AT STAKE! I'VE GOT TO FIND THE GORILLA GANG HIDEOUT--AND ROBIN-- BEFORE DAWN!

THOUGH POLICE JOIN THE SEARCH, BATMAN IS LIKE A FURY AS HE CRASHES UNDERWORLD HAUNTS!
WHERE'S THE GORILLA GANG HIDEOUT? TALK!
G-GOSH! IF I KNEW I'D TELL YA! H-HONEST!
PRECIOUS HOURS PASS--WITH NO RESULT!
TIME'S RUNNING OUT! ROBIN'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS BIG CITY! BUT WHERE? AND IF I DO FIND HIM, WILL I BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM--OR WILL I BLACK OUT AGAIN AS I DID LAST NIGHT?


"LAST NIGHT"! THOSE WORDS SUDDENLY HELP BATMAN RECALL SOMETHING THAT OCCURRED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT!
THE GETAWAY CAR TIRES PASSED THROUGH SPILLED CAMPHOR FLAKES! CAMPHOR SCENT IS VERY STRONG--TAKES QUITE A WHILE TO FADE AWAY COMPLETELY! THAT CAMPHOR SCENT WOULD BE TOO FAINT FOR ME TO TRAIL--BUT NOT FOR A DOG'S KEEN SENSE OF SMELL!
SHORTLY, WITH ACE IN HIS BAT-HOUND IDENTITY, THE MOVE AGAINST THE GORILLA GANG STARTS THIS NIGHT--WHERE LAST NIGHT'S ENDED!
OKAY, BAT-HOUND--THE CAMPHOR SMELL ON THE GETAWAY CAR TIRES SHOULD LEAD YOU RIGHT TO THE GANG'S HIDEOUT!
SNIFF! SNIFF!


SOON--DAWN! SHAFTS OF SUNLIGHT PROBE EVERYWHERE--ESPECIALLY THROUGH A SLIDING ROOFTOP...
SUNRISE--AND ROBIN'S GONNA RISE UNTIL HE'S OUTA THIS WORLD! HA, HA! ONE WHACK OF THIS SHARP AX AND...
HOLD IT, PETE! I HEARD SOMETHING--SOUNDS LIKE FOOTSTEPS! LUKE, TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE AND SEE IF ANYBODY'S SNOOPING AROUND!
CHECK!
MINUTES PASS AS THE CRIMINALS WAIT FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR COMPANION...
WELL? ANYBODY OUTSIDE?
YES...
...ME!
BATMAN! HE KAYOED LUKE--AND GOT INTO LUKE'S SUIT TO CATCH US OFF-GUARD! I'LL FIX HIM!
FREED, THE BALLOON STARTS TO RISE, THE ROPES TRAILING LIKE TENTACLES AROUND BATMAN'S SHOULDERS!..
THEN, A SHAGGY SHAPE HURTLES FORWARD LIKE A MISSILE...
THE AX--IT'S CUT THE MOORING ROPES!
"LIKE TENTACLES"! WILL THOSE ROPES CAUSE BATMAN TO BLACK OUT AGAIN? WILL HE IMAGINE HE IS IN THE GRIP OF THE TENTACLE-PLANT?





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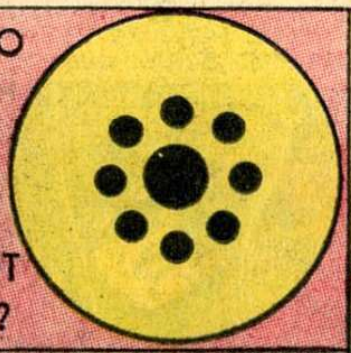
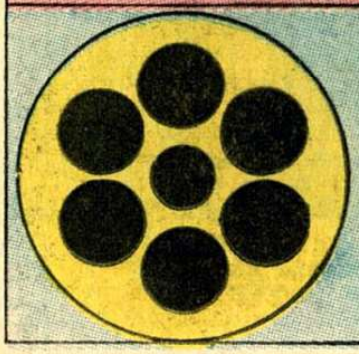
IN THE TWO LARGE YELLOW CIRCLES, WHICH CENTER DOT IS LARGER?





Answer: THEY ARE BOTH THE SAME SIZE!

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the only POP with the Tootsie Roll center!

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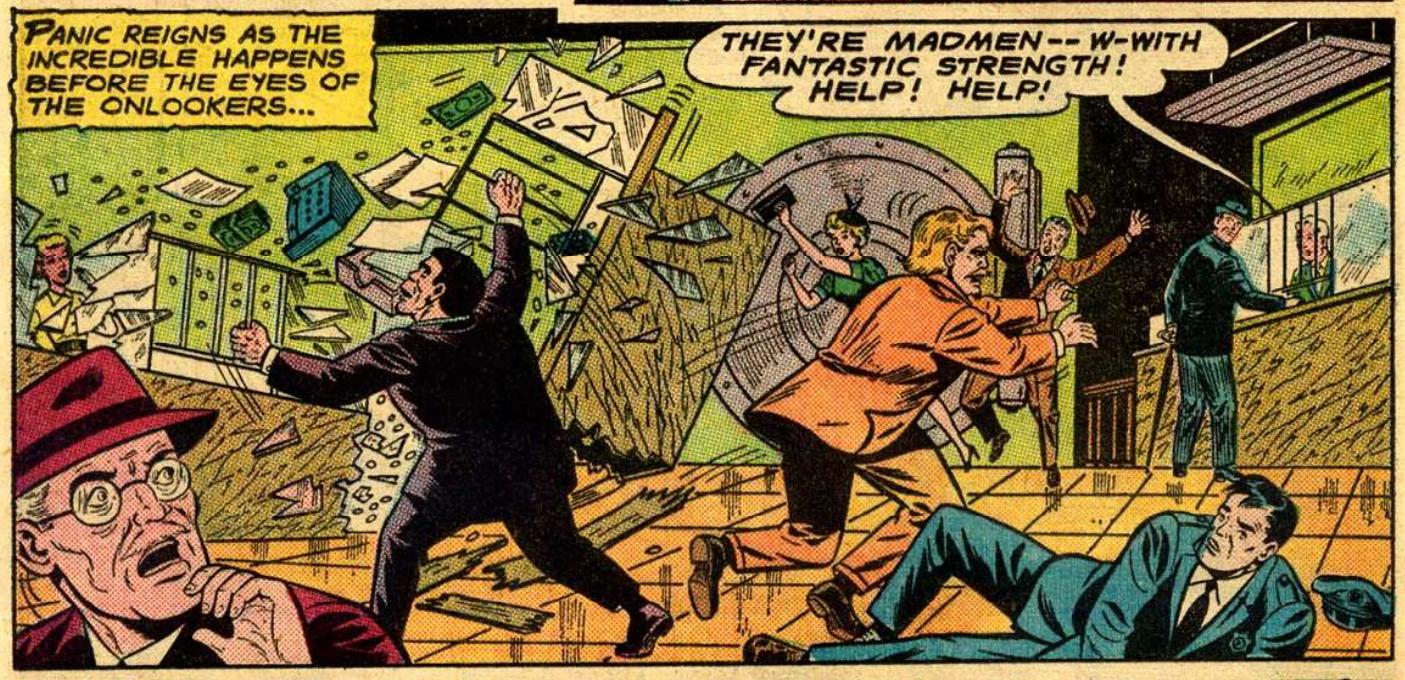
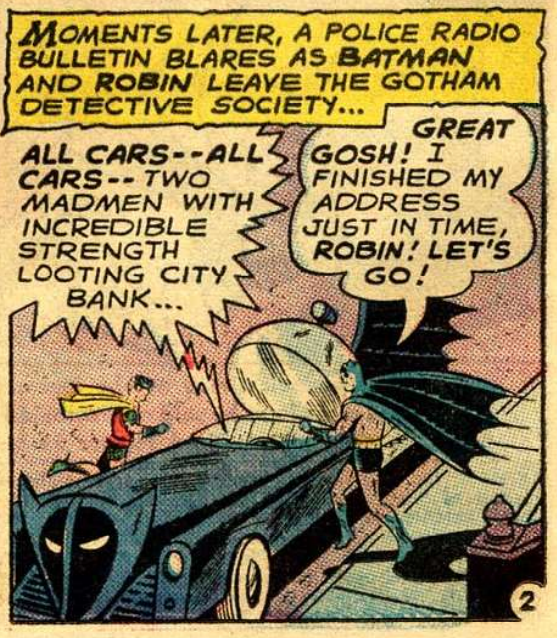
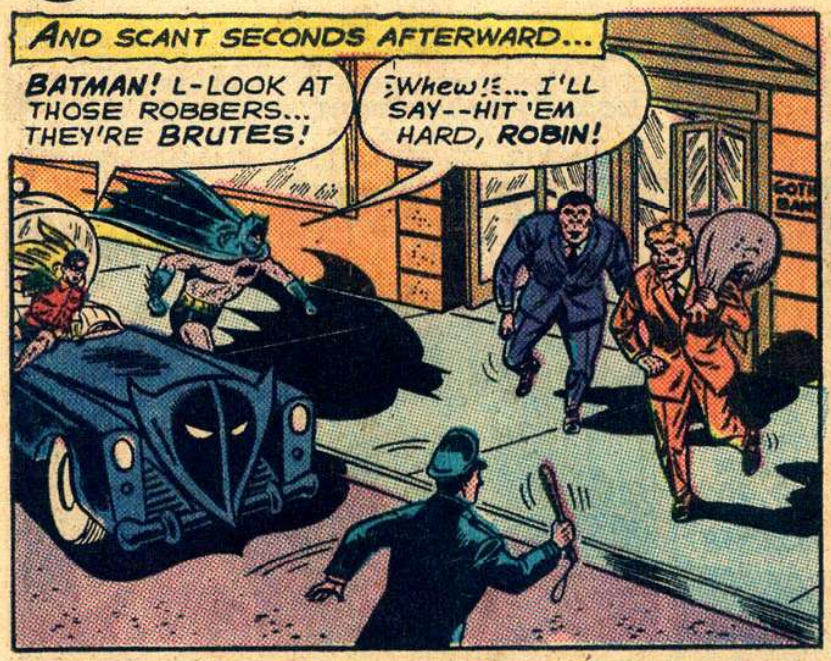
TWO ODD FIGURES QUIETLY ENTER GOTHAM CITY BANK, ONE DAY...
THERE'S SOMETHING... ANIMAL-LIKE ABOUT THOSE TWO MEN, DON'T YOU THINK?

SUDDENLY, CUSTOMERS FALL BACK IN AWE, AS...
ARR ROOW!
G-GREAT GRIEF!

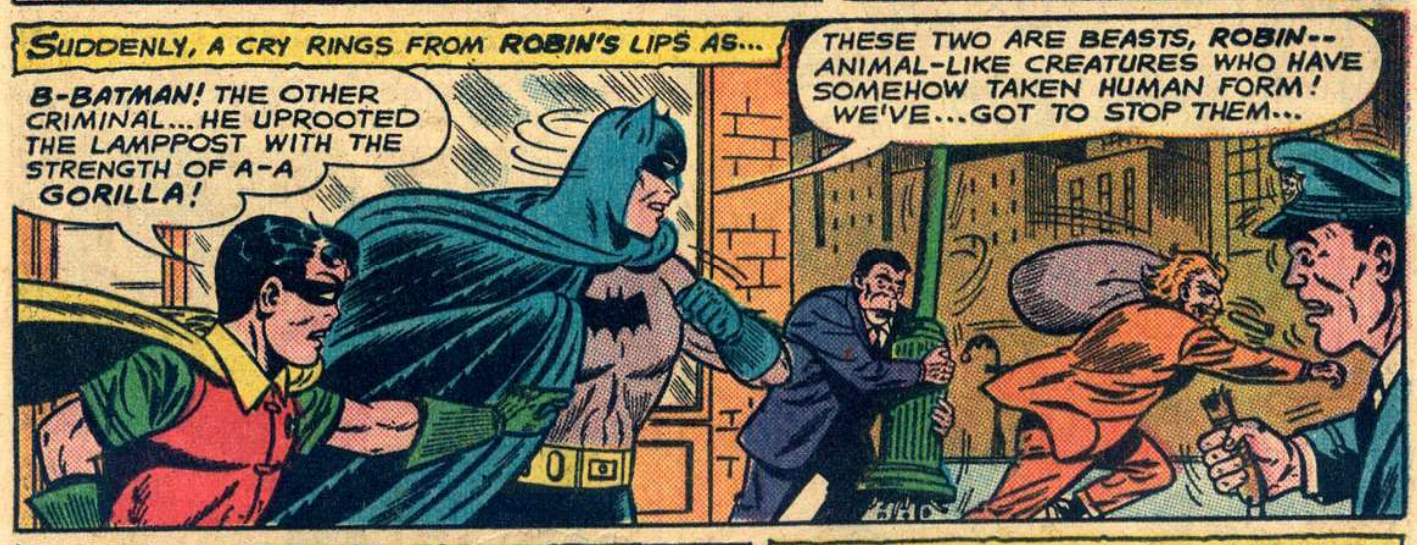

PANIC REIGNS AS THE INCREDIBLE HAPPENS BEFORE THE EYES OF THE ONLOOKERS...
THEY'RE MADMEN -- W-WITH FANTASTIC STRENGTH! HELP! HELP!

JUST TWO MEN... WITHOUT GUNS... THEY'VE OVERPOWERED THE GUARDS... RIPPED THE BANK APART! HURRY! HURRY!

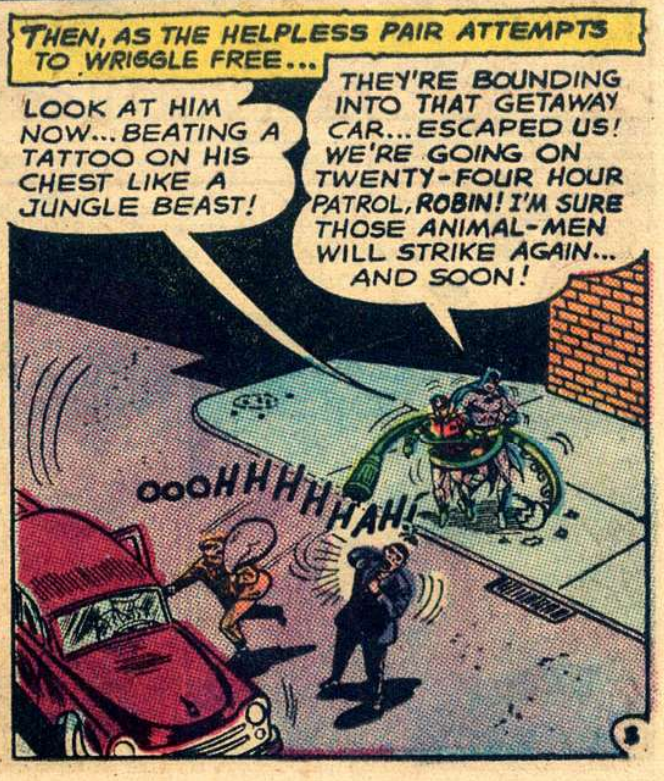

MOMENTS LATER, A POLICE RADIO BULLETIN BLARES AS BATMAN AND ROBIN LEAVE THE GOTHAM DETECTIVE SOCIETY...
ALL CARS--ALL CARS--TWO MADMEN WITH INCREDIBLE STRENGTH LOOTING CITY BANK...
GREAT GOSH! I FINISHED MY ADDRESS JUST IN TIME, ROBIN! LET'S GO!


AND SCANT SECONDS AFTERWARD...
BATMAN! L-LOOK AT THOSE ROBBERS... THEY'RE BRUTES!
Whew!... I'LL SAY--HIT 'EM HARD, ROBIN!

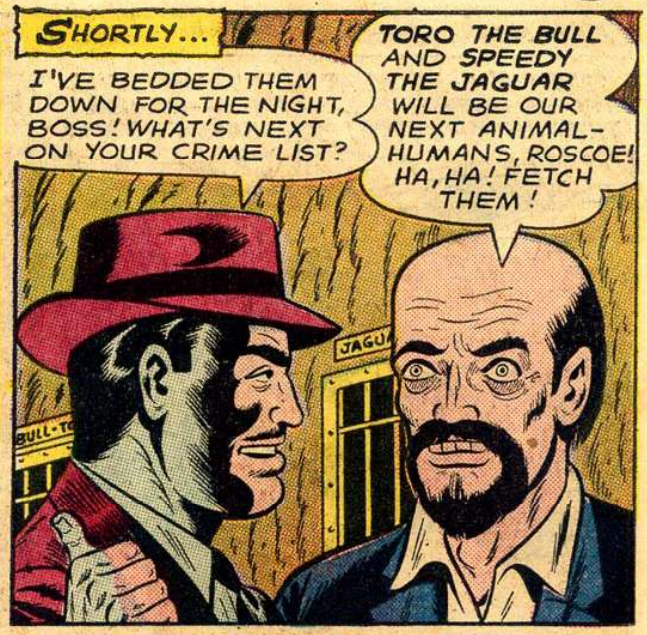
THAT CRIMINAL'S ACTING MORE LIKE A LION THAN A MAN! GOT TO HELP THE OFFICER...
AAARRROOOO!
CRACK!


SUDDENLY, A CRY RINGS FROM ROBIN'S LIPS AS...
B-BATMAN! THE OTHER CRIMINAL... HE UPROOTED THE LAMPPOST WITH THE STRENGTH OF A-A GORILLA!
THESE TWO ARE BEASTS, ROBIN-- ANIMAL-LIKE CREATURES WHO HAVE SOMEHOW TAKEN HUMAN FORM! WE'VE...GOT TO STOP THEM...

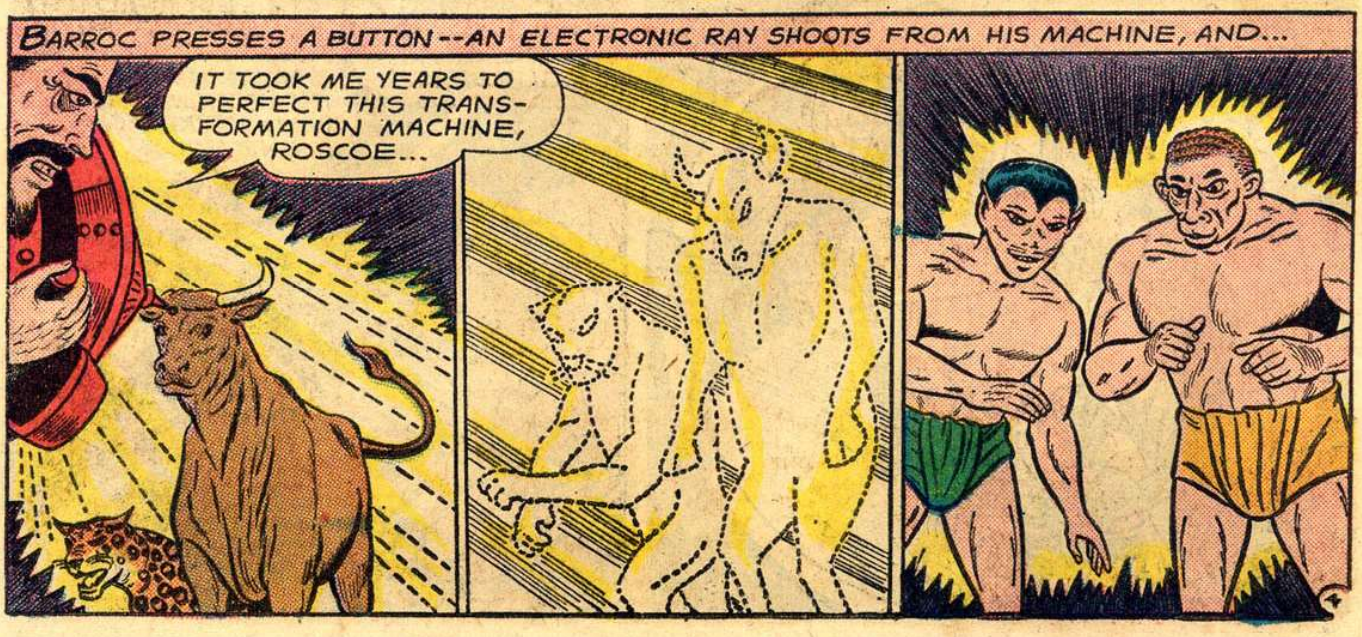
BUT BEFORE THE DYNAMIC DUO CAN ACT...
HE'S... IT'S RINGED US WITH THE TWISTED LAMPPOST...


THEN, AS THE HELPLESS PAIR ATTEMPTS TO WRIGGLE FREE...
LOOK AT HIM NOW... BEATING A TATTOO ON HIS CHEST LIKE A JUNGLE BEAST!
THEY'RE BOUNDING INTO THAT GETAWAY CAR... ESCAPED US! WE'RE GOING ON TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PATROL, ROBIN! I'M SURE THOSE ANIMAL-MEN WILL STRIKE AGAIN... AND SOON!
OOOHHHHHHAH!

LATER, A STRANGE FOURSOME ARRIVES AT A CAMOUFLAGED LOCALE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM...
GOSH, BOSS, YOUR TRAINED ANIMAL-HUMANS SURE DID A GOOD JOB!
YES, I'M REALLY PROUD OF LEO AND BONGO! PUT THEM IN THEIR CAGES AND GIVE THEM SOME FOOD, ROSCOE!
ALLIGATOR
BULL-TORO
JAGUAR-SPEEDY
LEO

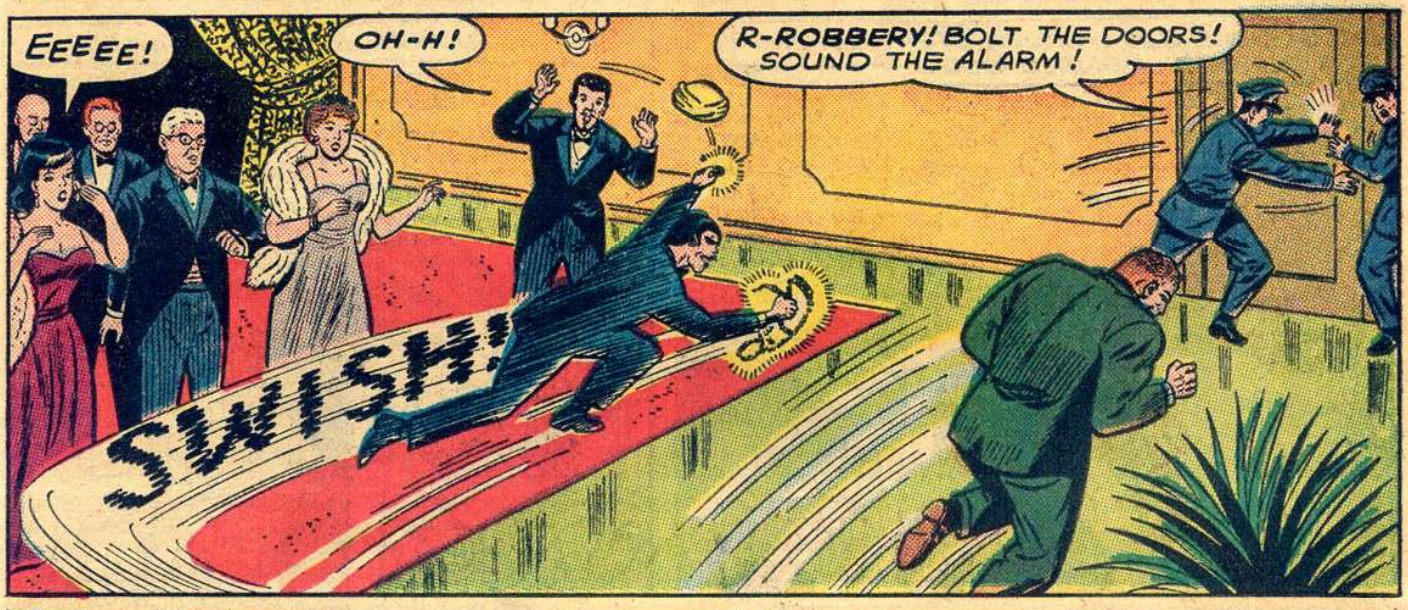

SHORTLY...
I'VE BEDDED THEM DOWN FOR THE NIGHT, BOSS! WHAT'S NEXT ON YOUR CRIME LIST?
TORO THE BULL AND SPEEDY THE JAGUAR WILL BE OUR NEXT ANIMAL-HUMANS, ROSCOE! HA, HA! FETCH THEM!

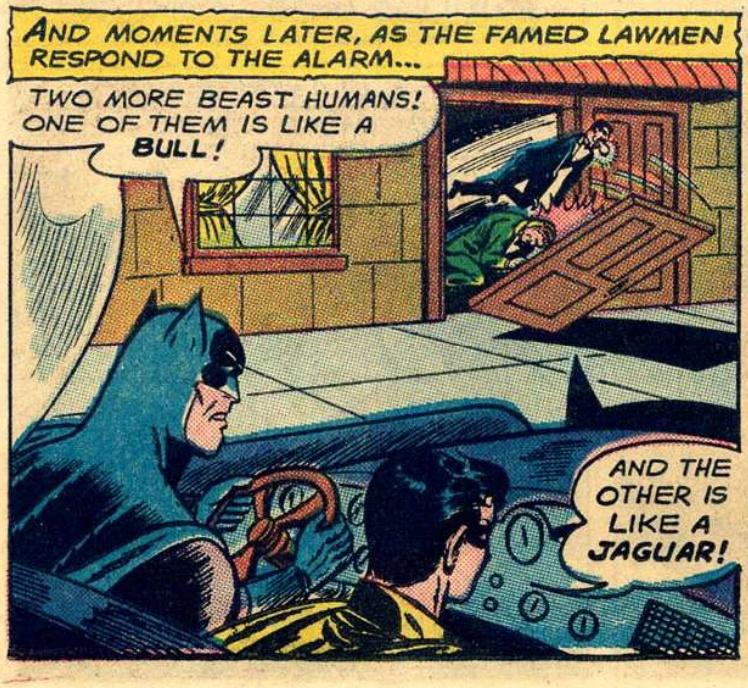
MY VENTURE HAS PROVEN ITSELF! SOON THE WORLD WILL TREMBLE AT THE NAME OF ERIC BARROC... MAKER OF THE TRAINED BEAST-HUMANS!


BARROC PRESSES A BUTTON--AN ELECTRONIC RAY SHOOTS FROM HIS MACHINE, AND...
IT TOOK ME YEARS TO PERFECT THIS TRANSFORMATION MACHINE, ROSCOE...

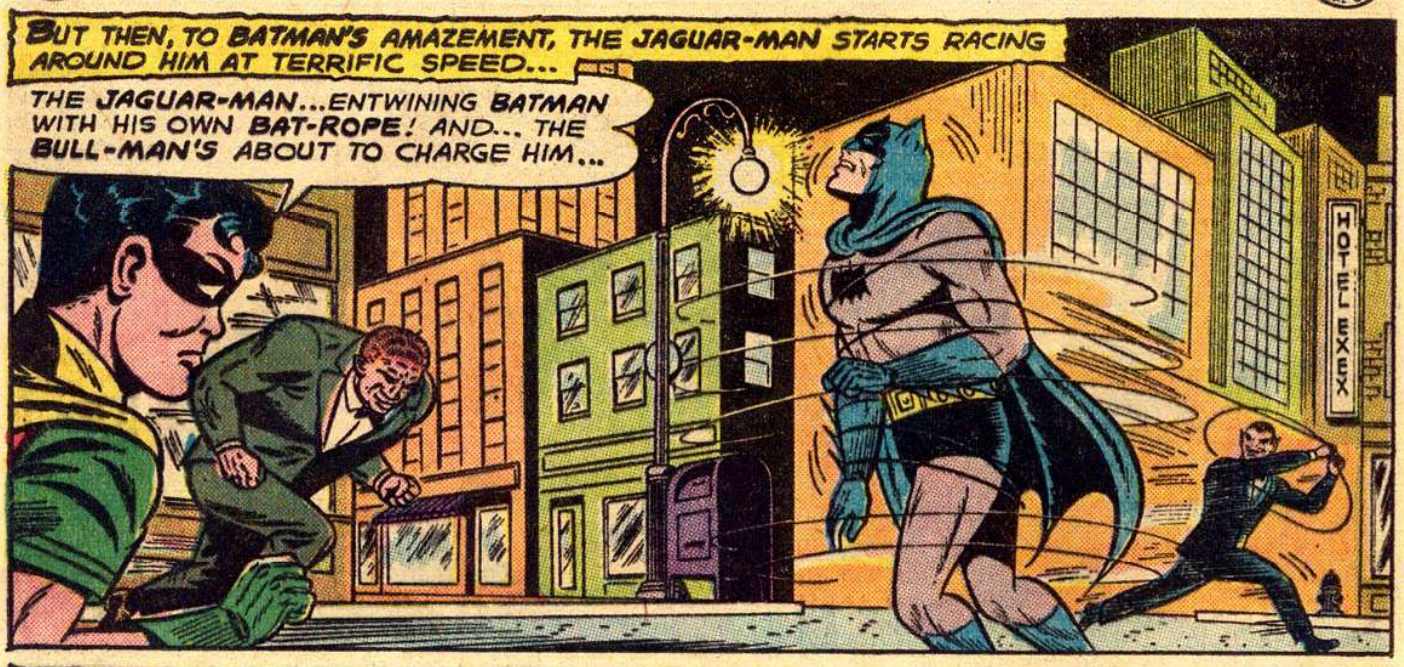
SHORTLY...
NOW, MY ANIMAL HENCHMEN, I HAVE JUST THE JOB TO SUIT YOUR-- SHALL WE SAY, SPECIAL TALENTS? HA, HA!
SNORT!
SNORT!

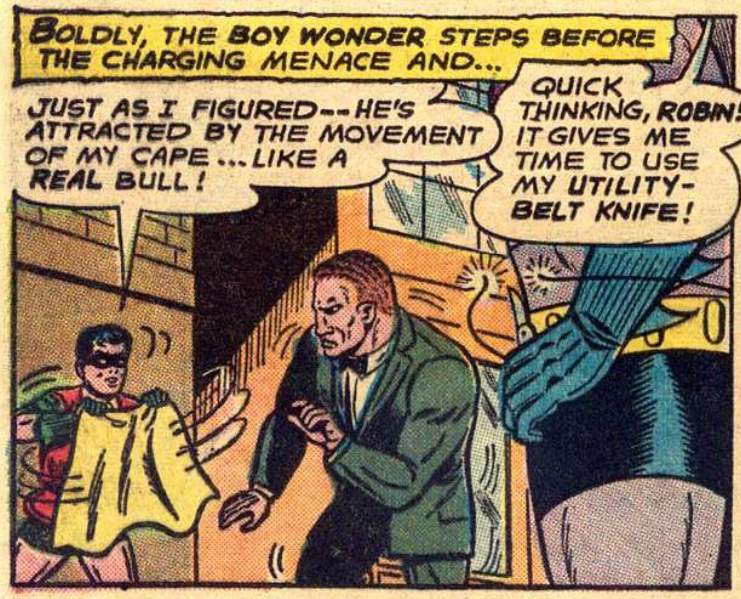
AND LATER, AT AN EXCLUSIVE RECEPTION FOR A WORLD DIGNITARY IN TALDORF TOWERS...
HUH? WHAT'RE THOSE ODD-LOOKING CHARACTERS DOING...?

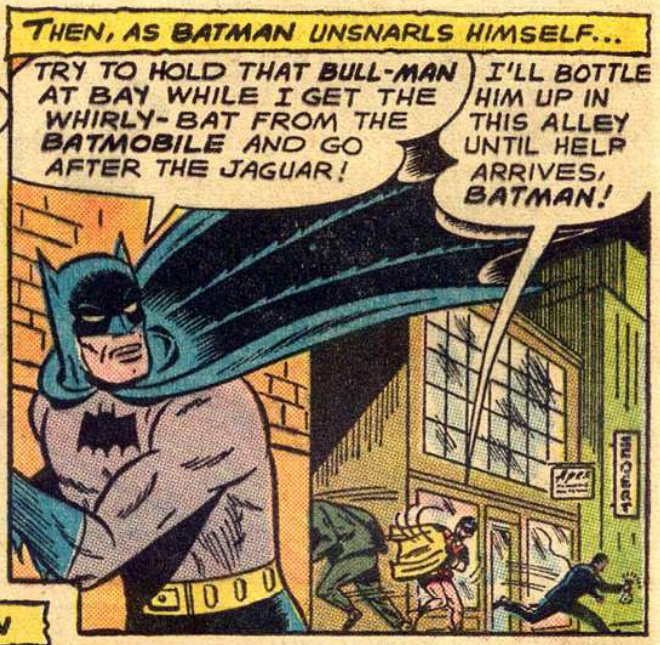

EEEEE!
OH-H!
R-ROBBERY! BOLT THE DOORS! SOUND THE ALARM!
SWISH!

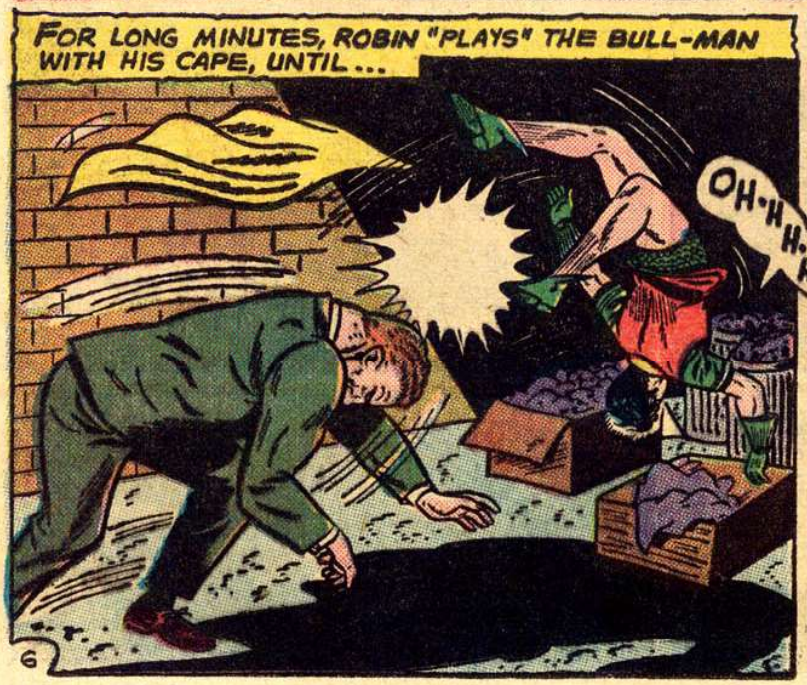

AND MOMENTS LATER, AS THE FAMED LAWMEN RESPOND TO THE ALARM...
TWO MORE BEAST HUMANS! ONE OF THEM IS LIKE A BULL!
AND THE OTHER IS LIKE A JAGUAR!

QUICKLY, THE AGILE CRIME-FIGHTER UNFURLS HIS BAT-ROPE AND...
CAUGHT ONE OF THEM!

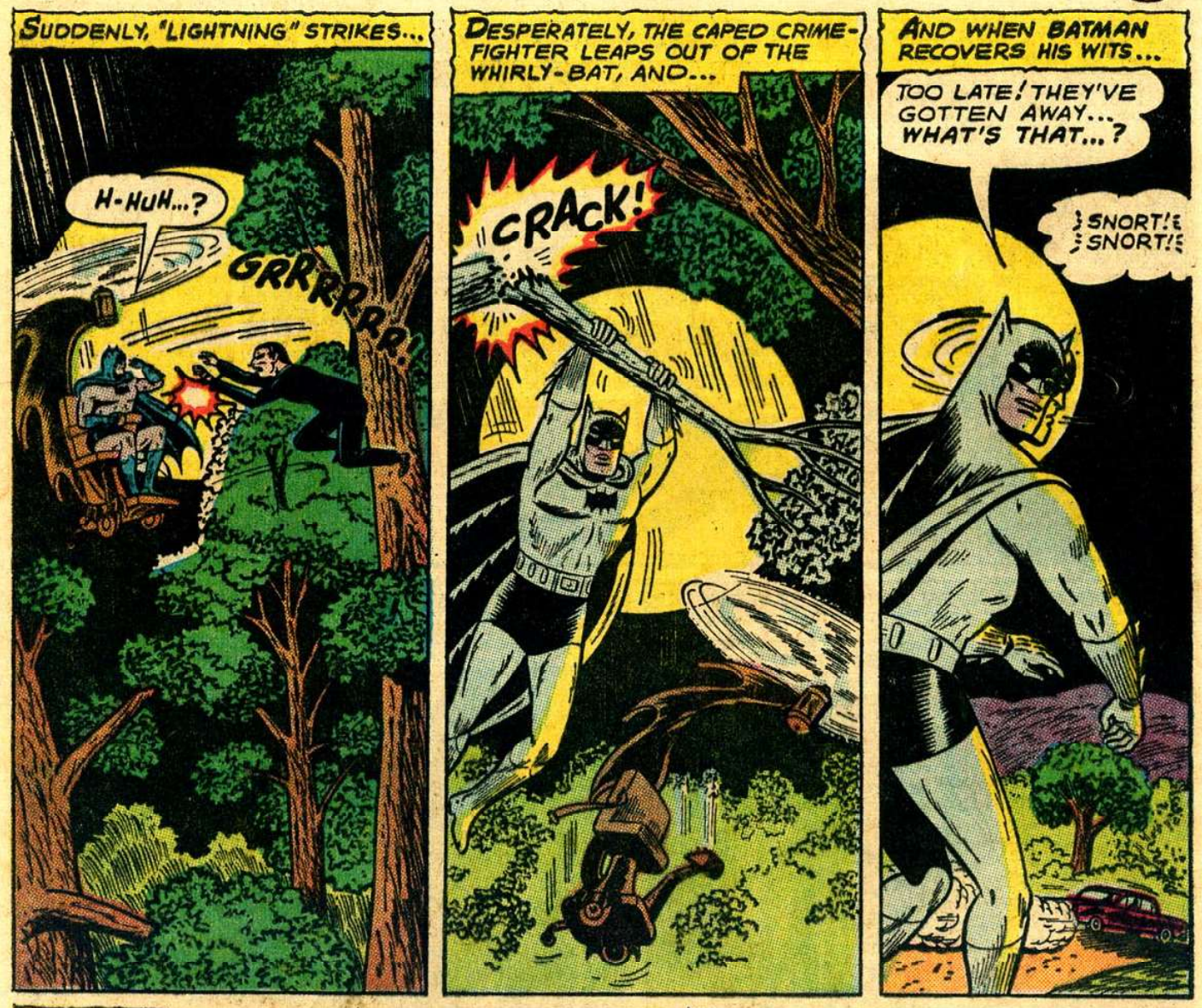

BUT THEN, TO BATMAN'S AMAZEMENT, THE JAGUAR-MAN STARTS RACING AROUND HIM AT TERRIFIC SPEED...
THE JAGUAR-MAN...ENTWINING BATMAN WITH HIS OWN BAT-ROPE! AND... THE BULL-MAN'S ABOUT TO CHARGE HIM...
HOTEL EXEX

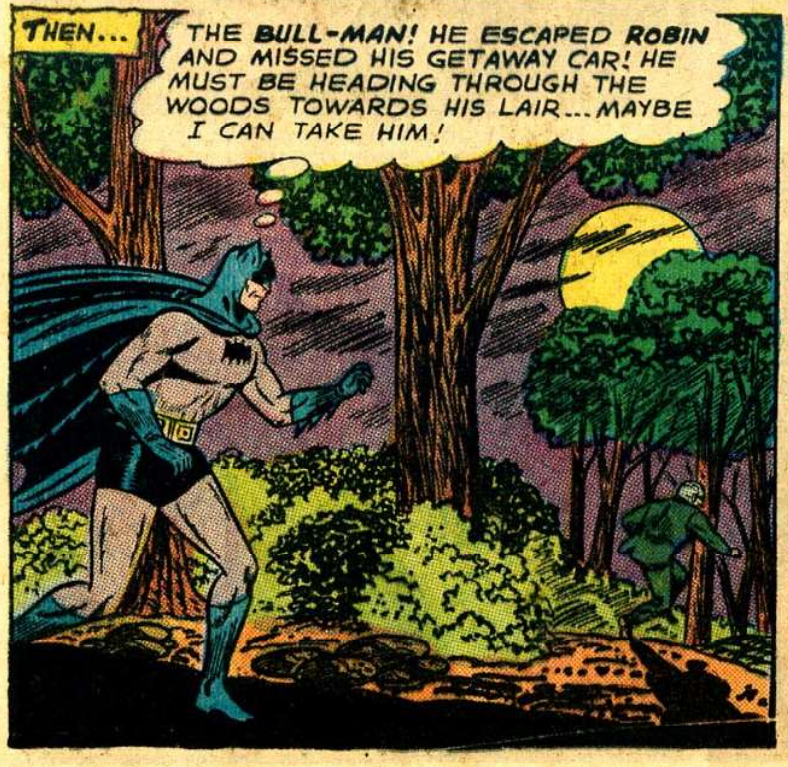

BOLDLY, THE BOY WONDER STEPS BEFORE THE CHARGING MENACE AND...
JUST AS I FIGURED--HE'S ATTRACTED BY THE MOVEMENT OF MY CAPE ... LIKE A REAL BULL!
QUICK THINKING, ROBIN! IT GIVES ME TIME TO USE MY UTILITY-BELT KNIFE!


THEN, AS BATMAN UNSNARLS HIMSELF...
TRY TO HOLD THAT BULL-MAN AT BAY WHILE I GET THE WHIRLY-BAT FROM THE BATMOBILE AND GO AFTER THE JAGUAR!
I'LL BOTTLE HIM UP IN THIS ALLEY UNTIL HELP ARRIVES, BATMAN!

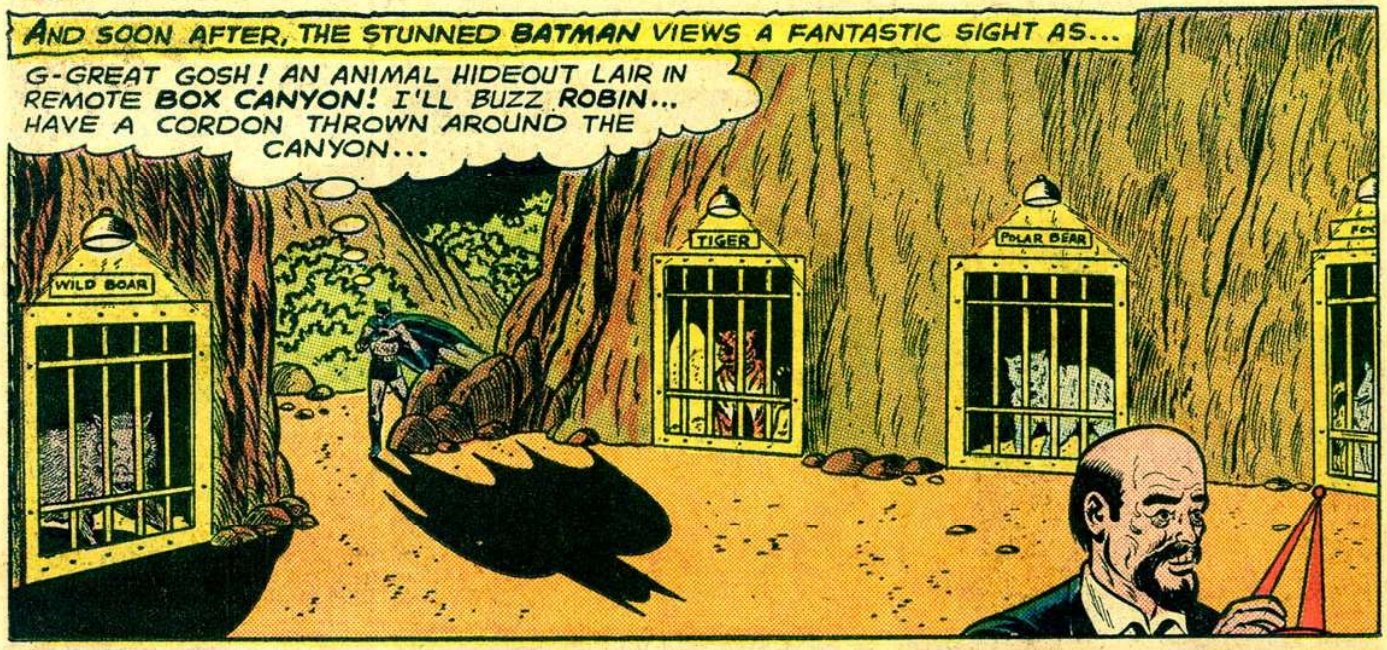

FOR LONG MINUTES, ROBIN "PLAYS" THE BULL-MAN WITH HIS CAPE, UNTIL...
OH-H-H-H!

MEANWHILE, IN A WOODED AREA...
THE JAGUAR RACED INTO THE FOLIAGE HERE... AND THERE'S THE SAME GETAWAY CAR WAITING... I'LL TAIL THEM...


SUDDENLY, "LIGHTNING" STRIKES...
H-HUH...?
GRRRRRR!
DESPERATELY, THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER LEAPS OUT OF THE WHIRLY-BAT, AND...
CRACK!
AND WHEN BATMAN RECOVERS HIS WITS...
TOO LATE! THEY'VE GOTTEN AWAY... WHAT'S THAT...?
SNORT! SNORT!


THEN...
THE BULL-MAN! HE ESCAPED ROBIN AND MISSED HIS GETAWAY CAR! HE MUST BE HEADING THROUGH THE WOODS TOWARDS HIS LAIR... MAYBE I CAN TAKE HIM!

SHORTLY, THE KEEN EYES OF THE CRACK CRIME-FIGHTER SCAN THE GROUND...
BROKEN BRUSH! THE BULL-MAN WENT THIS WAY... THERE ARE HIS "HOOF" PRINTS...

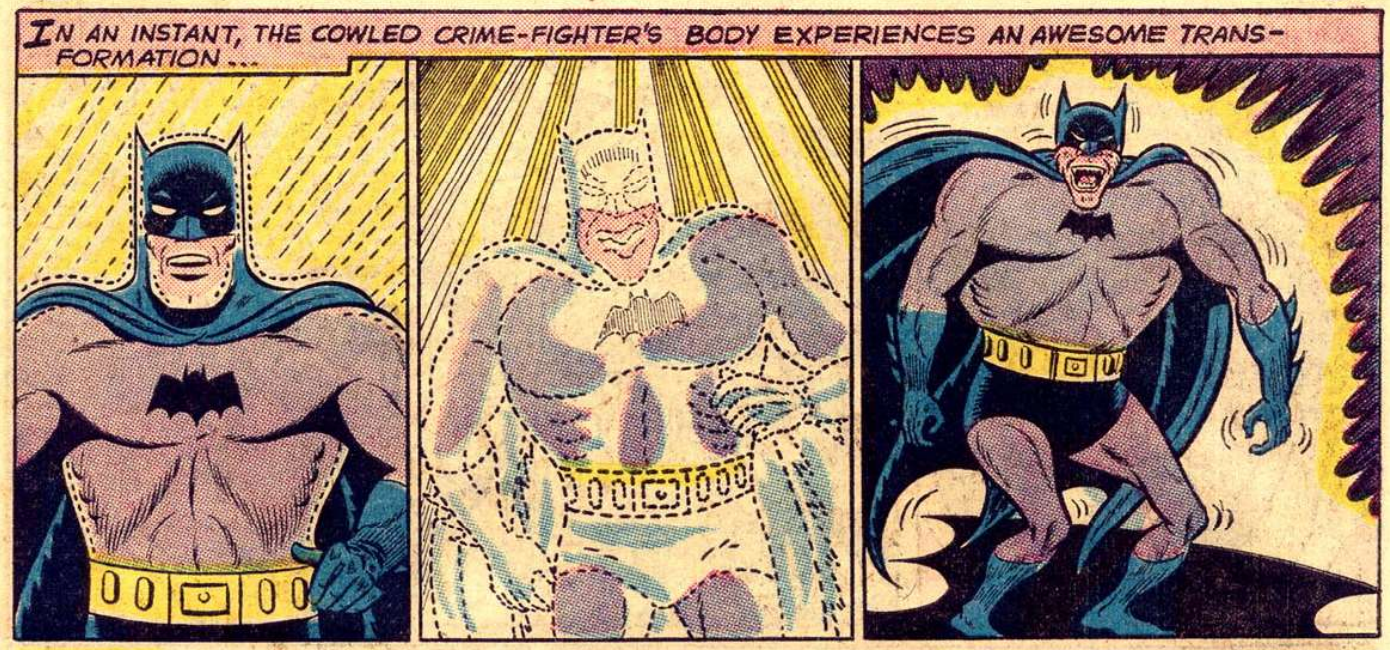

AND SOON AFTER, THE STUNNED BATMAN VIEWS A FANTASTIC SIGHT AS...
G-GREAT GOSH! AN ANIMAL HIDEOUT LAIR IN REMOTE BOX CANYON! I'LL BUZZ ROBIN... HAVE A CORDON THROWN AROUND THE CANYON...
WILD BOAR
TIGER
POLAR BEAR

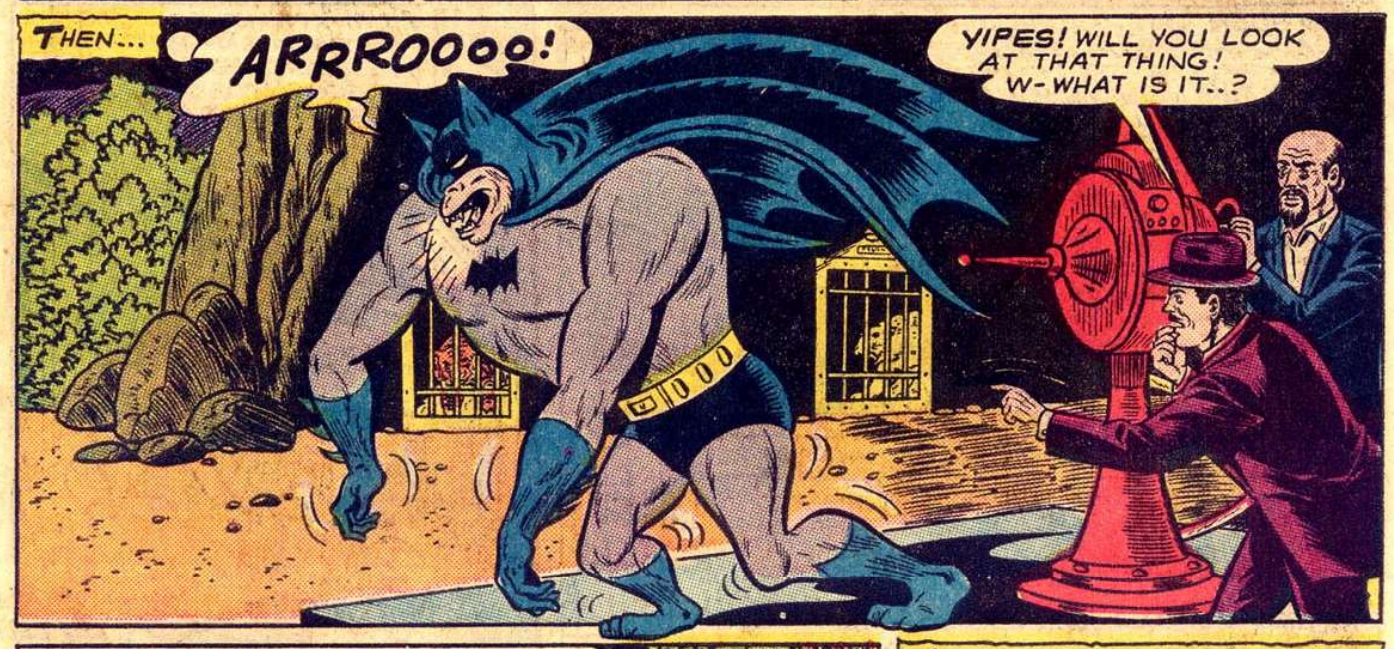
BUT SUDDENLY, KEEN ANIMAL SENSES DETECT AN INTRUDER'S PRESENCE AND...
SOMEONE HERE..!
ROAR!

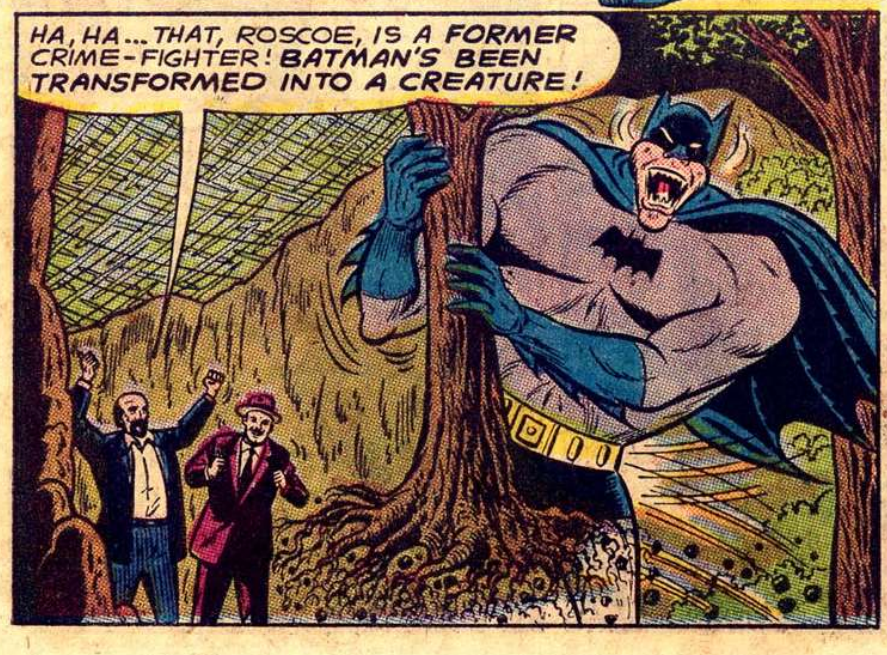
BATMAN! MUST FREE ONE OF MY ANIMALS... TO COMBAT HIM...
I'LL SPEAK TO ROBIN LATER! CAN'T LET HIM OPEN THAT CAGE...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PULL ONE OF YOUR ANIMAL ACTS ON ME, MISTER!
I'M... AT BATMAN'S MERCY NOW... UNLESS...

IN DESPERATION, THE CRIMINAL SUDDENLY BOUNDS TO HIS INCREDIBLE MACHINE AND...
B-BATMAN... BEING BLASTED BY THE TRANSFORMATION RAY! GOSH... HOW WILL IT AFFECT HIM..?
I-I DON'T KNOW, ROSCOE! I'VE NEVER TRIED IT ON A HUMAN BEFORE! BUT... WE'LL SOON FIND OUT...
ZZZZZZZZZ!


IN AN INSTANT, THE COWLED CRIME-FIGHTER'S BODY EXPERIENCES AN AWESOME TRANS-FORMATION...


THEN...
ARRROOOO!
YIPES! WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT THING! W-WHAT IS IT..?


HA, HA... THAT, ROSCOE, IS A FORMER CRIME-FIGHTER! BATMAN'S BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A CREATURE!

AS THE CRIMINAL'S WORDS OF GLEE BOOM FORTH, THEY ARE PICKED UP BY ROBIN'S OPEN BELT-RADIO RECEIVER AND...
...BATMAN'S BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A CREATURE!
H-HUH..? A VOICE COMING IN OVER THE BELT-RADIO! BUT...IT ISN'T BATMAN'S

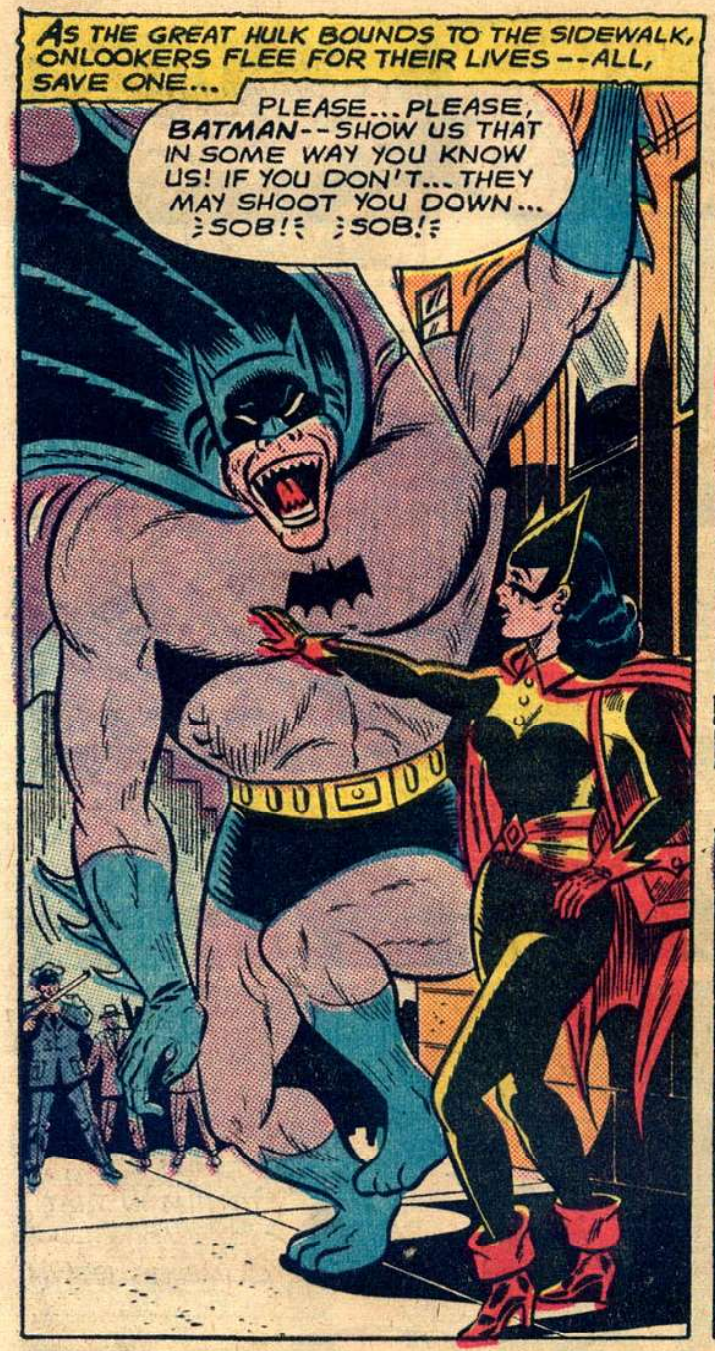
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

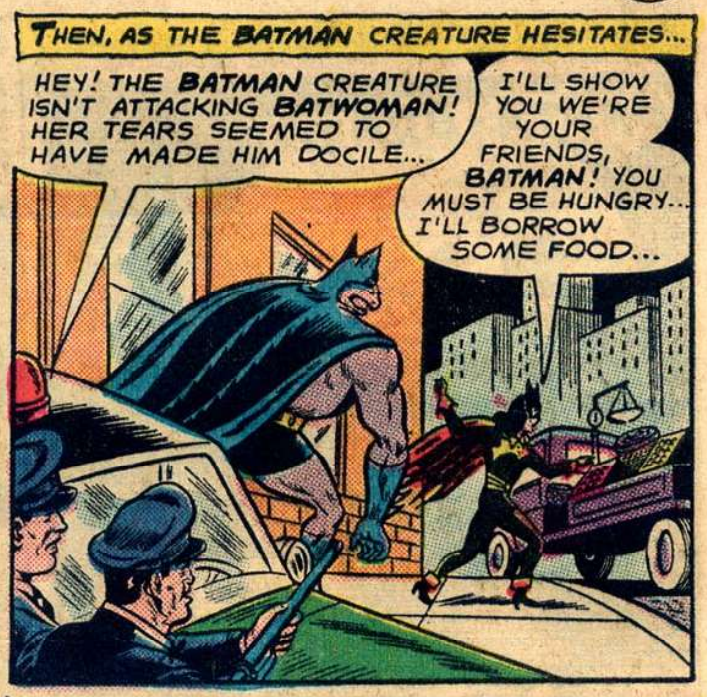
AND AFTER A SWIFT ELEVATOR ZIPS ROBIN TO THE TOP OF THE TOWERING BUILDING...
BRATA-BRATA!
MACHINE-GUN FIRE! WHO'S SHOOTING AT HIM?

ARMY JETS... TRYING TO PICK BATMAN OFF! WAIT--DON'T SHOOT! THAT CREATURE...IS BATMAN!
IT'S ROBIN...BATMAN'S PARTNER! HE MUST KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING--CEASE FIRE!
U.S.A.F.

THEN, AS THE EYES OF GOTHAM LOOK TO THE GREAT DOME...
B-BATMAN... IT'S ME...ROBIN! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME..?
GRRROOOOOW!

GRRRRRR!
I-I DIDN'T GET THROUGH TO HIM IN THAT CREATURE STATE! HE'S CLIMBING DOWN ...GOT TO GET TO THE STREET!

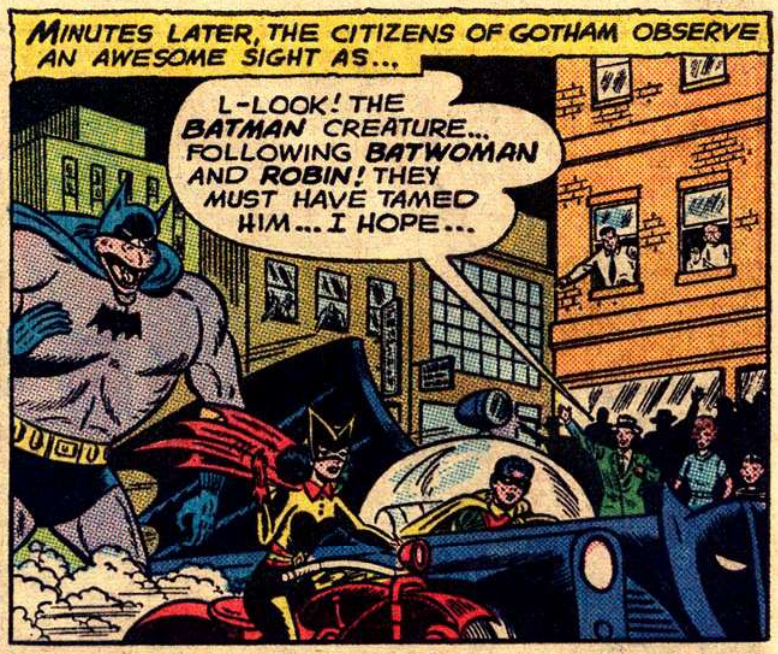

AS THE GREAT HULK BOUNDS TO THE SIDEWALK, ONLOOKERS FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES --ALL, SAVE ONE...
PLEASE... PLEASE, BATMAN-- SHOW US THAT IN SOME WAY YOU KNOW US! IF YOU DON'T... THEY MAY SHOOT YOU DOWN... SOB! SOB!

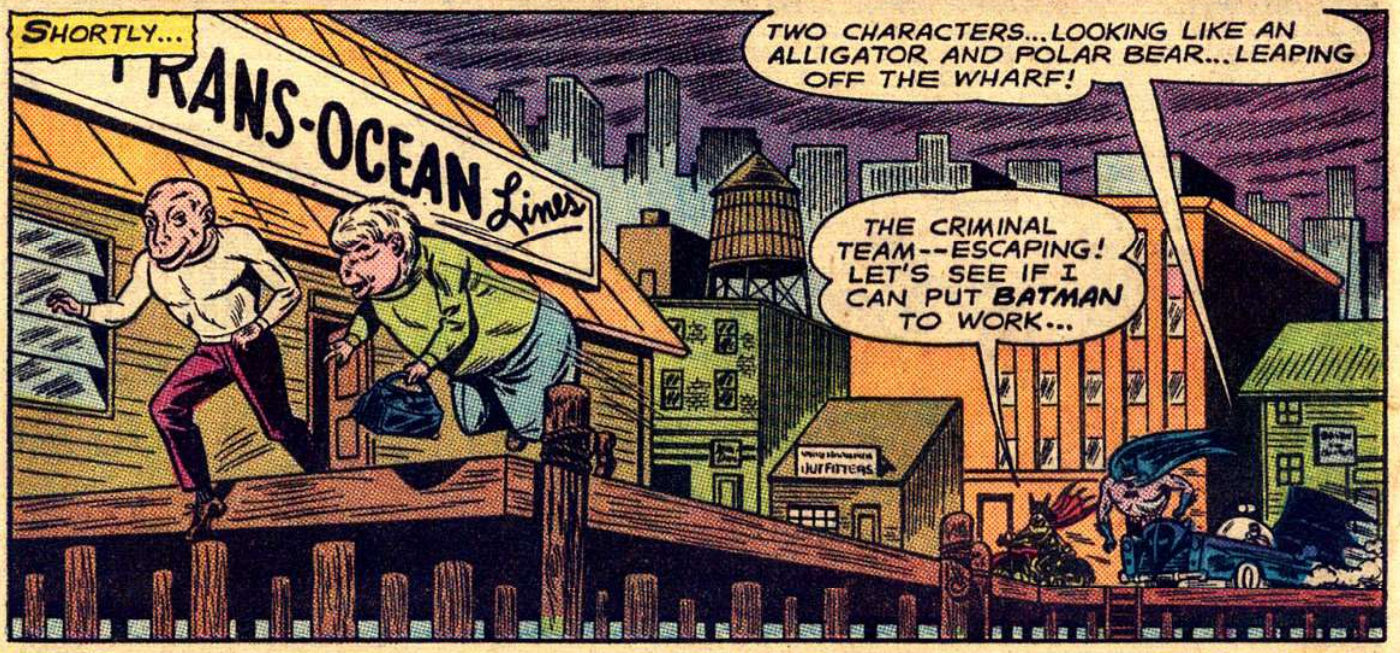

THEN, AS THE BATMAN CREATURE HESITATES...
HEY! THE BATMAN CREATURE ISN'T ATTACKING BATWOMAN! HER TEARS SEEMED TO HAVE MADE HIM DOCILE...
I'LL SHOW YOU WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS, BATMAN! YOU MUST BE HUNGRY... I'LL BORROW SOME FOOD...

A MOMENT LATER, THE TENSENESS IS BROKEN AS...
YOU DID IT, BATWOMAN-- YOU'VE WON HIS CONFIDENCE!
YES, ROBIN... HE'S MUNCHING AWAY AT THAT FRUIT LIKE A TRAINED PET! BUT... WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE..?

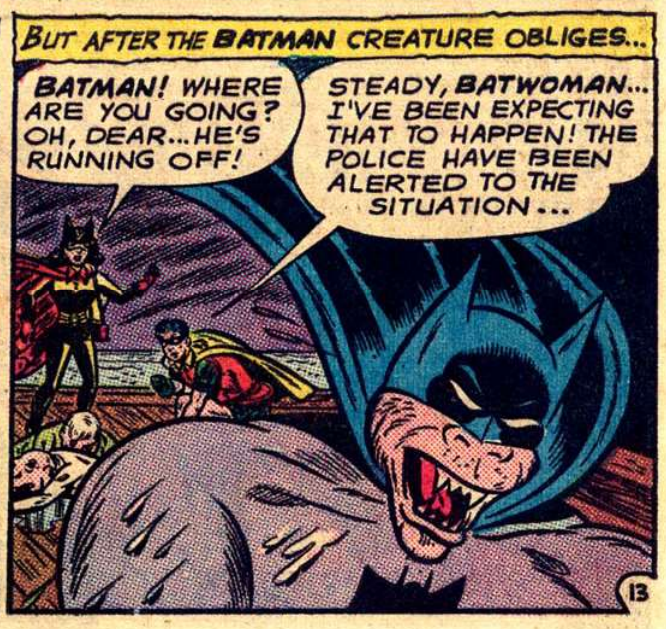
BUT BEFORE ROBIN CAN REPLY...
WE JUST RECEIVED A RADIO BULLETIN --TWO ANIMAL-LIKE CHARACTERS ARE ROBBING TRANS-OCEAN LINES!
"ANIMAL-LIKE"! LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT ANOTHER CRIMINAL BEAST TEAM TO COPE WITH, BATWOMAN! AND WE'VE LOST THE SERVICES OF BATMAN!

PERHAPS NOT, ROBIN! BATMAN! CAN YOU HEAR ME? TRY TO UNDERSTAND... FOLLOW US... FOLLOW US!

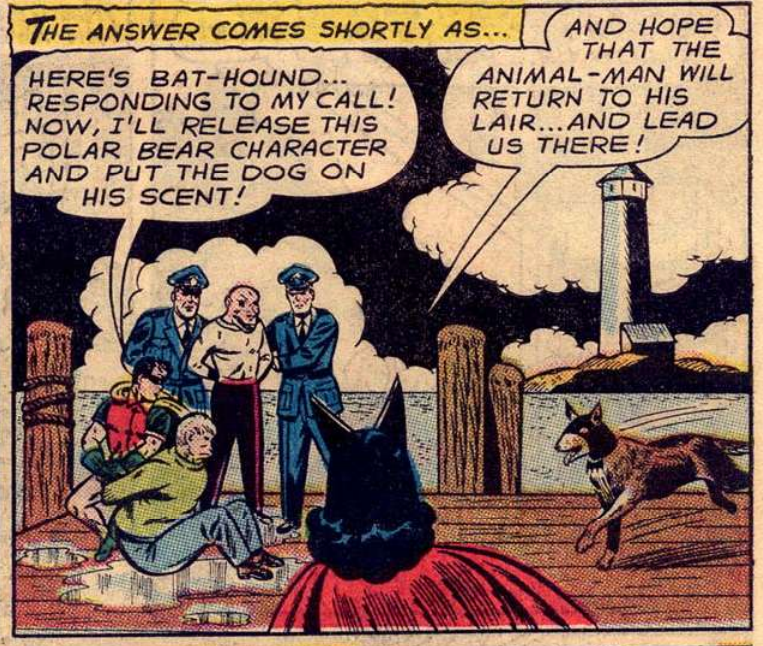

MINUTES LATER, THE CITIZENS OF GOTHAM OBSERVE AN AWESOME SIGHT AS...
L-LOOK! THE BATMAN CREATURE... FOLLOWING BATWOMAN AND ROBIN! THEY MUST HAVE TAMED HIM... I HOPE...

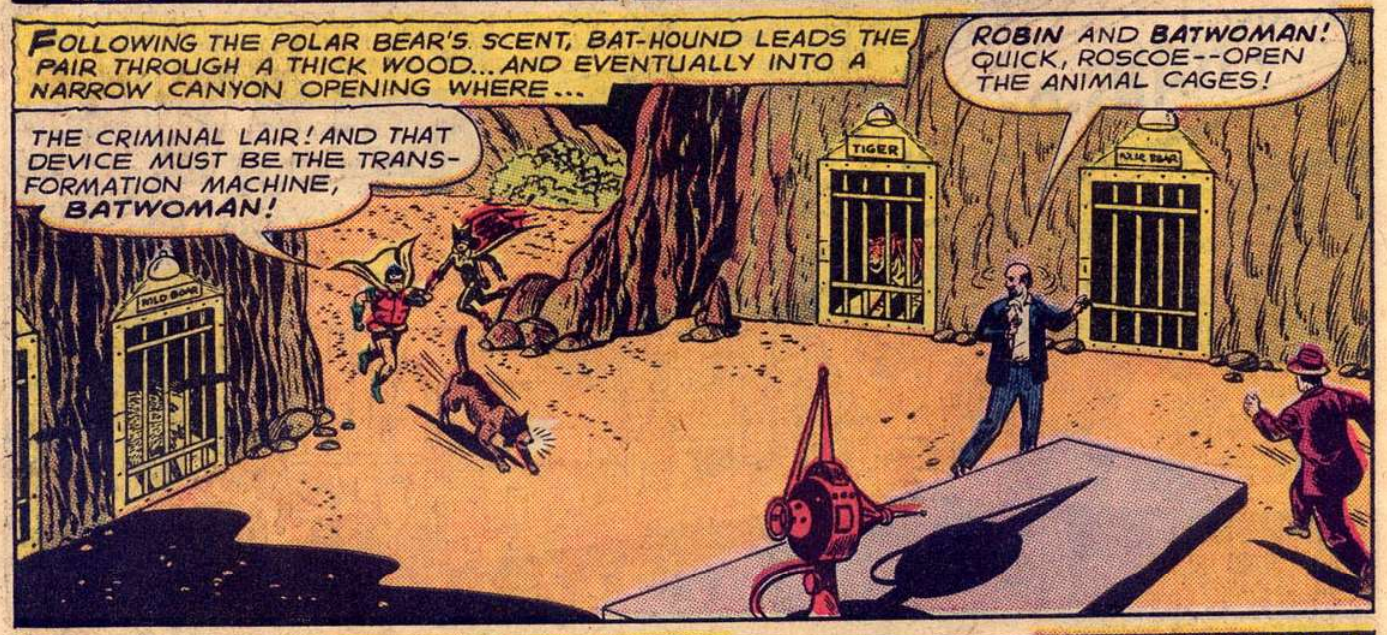

SHORTLY...
TRANS-OCEAN Lines
TWO CHARACTERS... LOOKING LIKE AN ALLIGATOR AND POLAR BEAR... LEAPING OFF THE WHARF!
THE CRIMINAL TEAM--ESCAPING! LET'S SEE IF I CAN PUT BATMAN TO WORK...

BATWOMAN FRANTICALLY ISSUES A COMMAND-- POINTS TO THE ESCAPING CRIMINALS AND...
WOW! HE'S KNOCKED BOTH OF THEM COLD!
NOW, I'LL DIRECT HIM TO LEAVE THEM ON THE PIER!

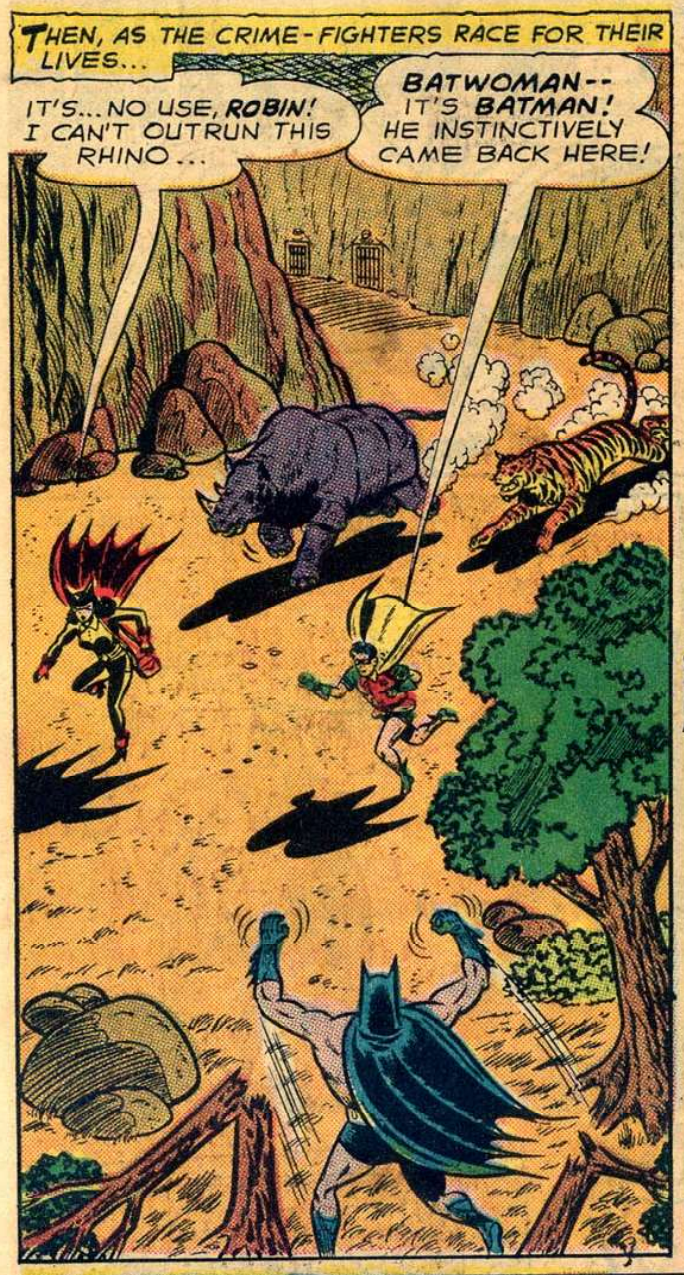

BUT AFTER THE BATMAN CREATURE OBLIGES...
BATMAN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? OH, DEAR... HE'S RUNNING OFF!
STEADY, BATWOMAN... I'VE BEEN EXPECTING THAT TO HAPPEN! THE POLICE HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO THE SITUATION...

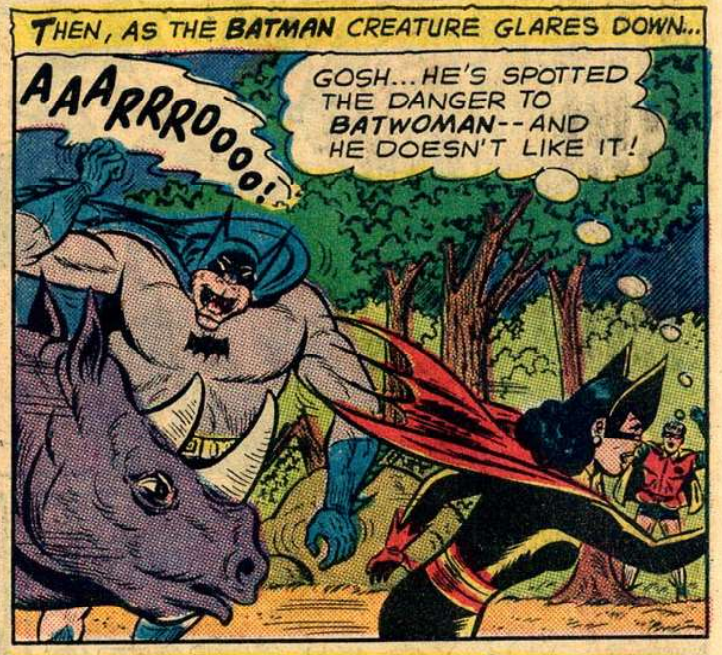
RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT TO LOCATE THE CRIMINAL HIDEOUT AND HOPE THERE'S A MEANS OF CHANGING BATMAN BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN! AND I'VE GOT AN IDEA...
ROBIN'S ABOUT TO CALL BAT-HOUND VIA THE SUPER-SONIC SIGNAL DEVICE SECRETED IN THE HEEL OF HIS BOOT! I WONDER WHAT HE HAS IN MIND?


THE ANSWER COMES SHORTLY AS...
HERE'S BAT-HOUND... RESPONDING TO MY CALL! NOW, I'LL RELEASE THIS POLAR BEAR CHARACTER AND PUT THE DOG ON HIS SCENT!
AND HOPE THAT THE ANIMAL-MAN WILL RETURN TO HIS LAIR...AND LEAD US THERE!

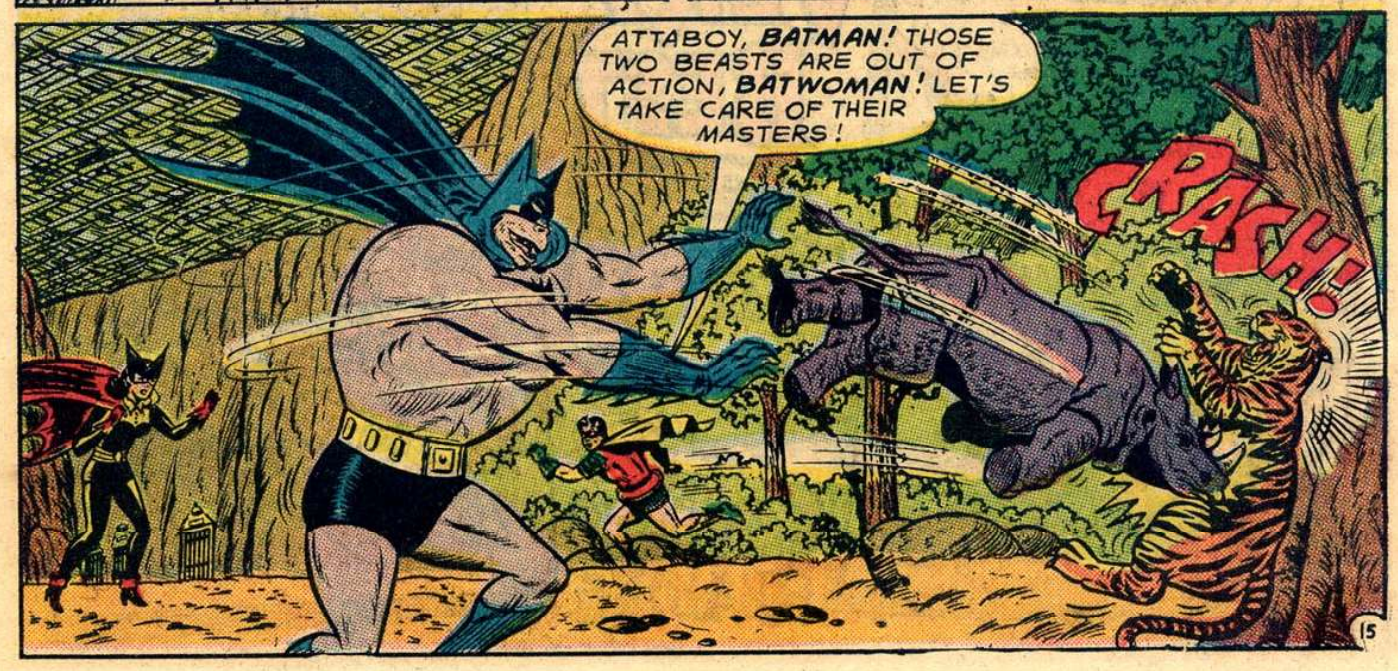

FOLLOWING THE POLAR BEAR'S SCENT, BAT-HOUND LEADS THE PAIR THROUGH A THICK WOOD...AND EVENTUALLY INTO A NARROW CANYON OPENING WHERE...
THE CRIMINAL LAIR! AND THAT DEVICE MUST BE THE TRANSFORMATION MACHINE, BATWOMAN!
ROBIN AND BATWOMAN! QUICK, ROSCOE--OPEN THE ANIMAL CAGES!
TIGER
POLAR BEAR
WILD BOAR

WITHIN SECONDS, ROBIN AND BATWOMAN FIND THEMSELVES CONFRONTING AWE-SOME ENEMIES AS...
ROARR!
A-A RHINO AND TIGER...CHARGING US! RUN, BATWOMAN--RUN!


THEN, AS THE CRIME-FIGHTERS RACE FOR THEIR LIVES...
IT'S...NO USE, ROBIN! I CAN'T OUTRUN THIS RHINO...
BATWOMAN-- IT'S BATMAN! HE INSTINCTIVELY CAME BACK HERE!


THEN, AS THE BATMAN CREATURE GLARES DOWN...
AAARRROOO!
GOSH...HE'S SPOTTED THE DANGER TO BATWOMAN--AND HE DOESN'T LIKE IT!

A MOMENT LATER, THE RHINO IS SEIZED IN A VISE-LIKE GRIP AND...
AARROOO!


ATTABOY, BATMAN! THOSE TWO BEASTS ARE OUT OF ACTION, BATWOMAN! LET'S TAKE CARE OF THEIR MASTERS!
CRASH!

SECONDS LATER, ROBIN AND BATWOMAN SPRING INTO ACTION...

I'VE SNARED ONE OF THE CRIMINALS WITH MY HAIR NET...

AND I'VE DOWNED THE OTHER, BATWOMAN! NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT GETTING POOR BATMAN BACK TO NORMAL!

SHORTLY, A STRANGE RAY IS PLAYED ON THE BATMAN CREATURE, AND...

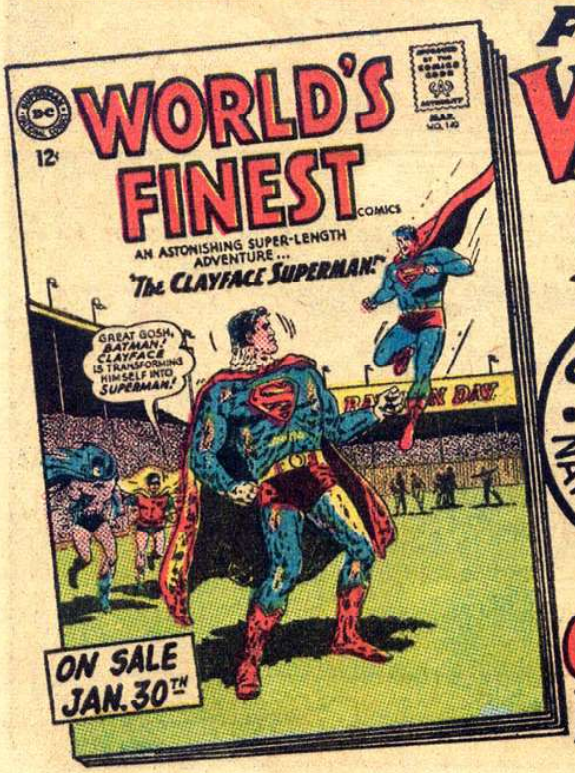
HE'S CHANGING... BECOMING NORMAL, THANK HEAVEN!

AND ONCE WE RESTORE THOSE ANIMAL-MEN BACK TO ANIMALS, THE CASE WILL BE WRAPPED UP!

W-WHAT HAPPENED? I... CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...

AFTER WHAT ROBIN AND I HAVE BEEN THROUGH, PERHAPS IT'S BEST YOU DON'T, BATMAN! BUT I PROMISE YOU, IT WILL BE THE MOST BIZARRE CASE EVER TO BE RECORDED IN YOUR BAT-FILES!

END.



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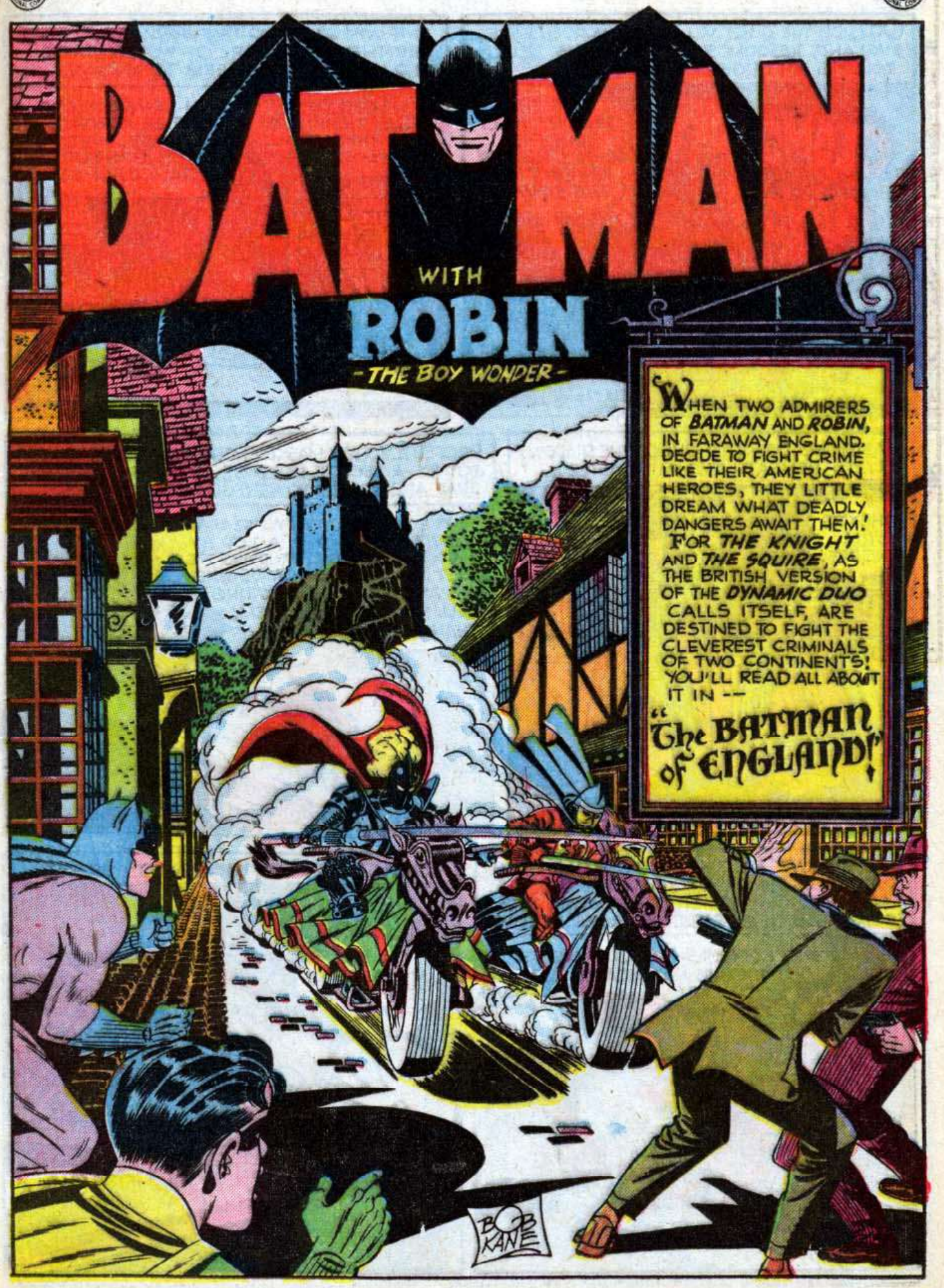
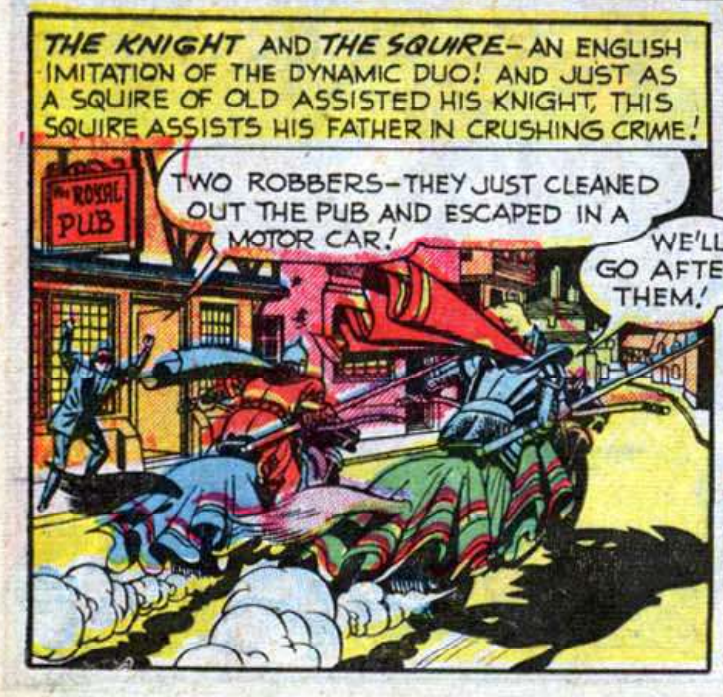

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
WHEN TWO ADMIRERS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, IN FARAWAY ENGLAND, DECIDE TO FIGHT CRIME LIKE THEIR AMERICAN HEROES, THEY LITTLE DREAM WHAT DEADLY DANGERS AWAIT THEM! FOR THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE, AS THE BRITISH VERSION OF THE DYNAMIC DUO CALLS ITSELF, ARE DESTINED TO FIGHT THE CLEVEREST CRIMINALS OF TWO CONTINENTS! YOU'LL READ ALL ABOUT IT IN --
"The BATMAN of ENGLAND!"
BOB KANE

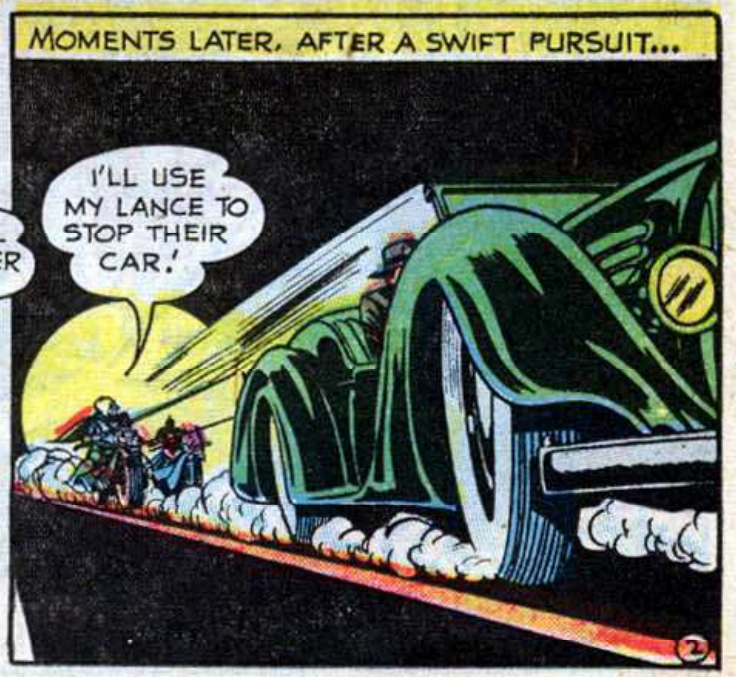
OUTSIDE THE QUIET VILLAGE OF WORDENSHIRE, ENGLAND, RESOUNDS A CLANGOROUS BELL TOLLING AN URGENT SUMMONS!
CLANG! CLANG!
IT'S THE RECTORY BELL! THEY'RE SIGNALLING THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE!

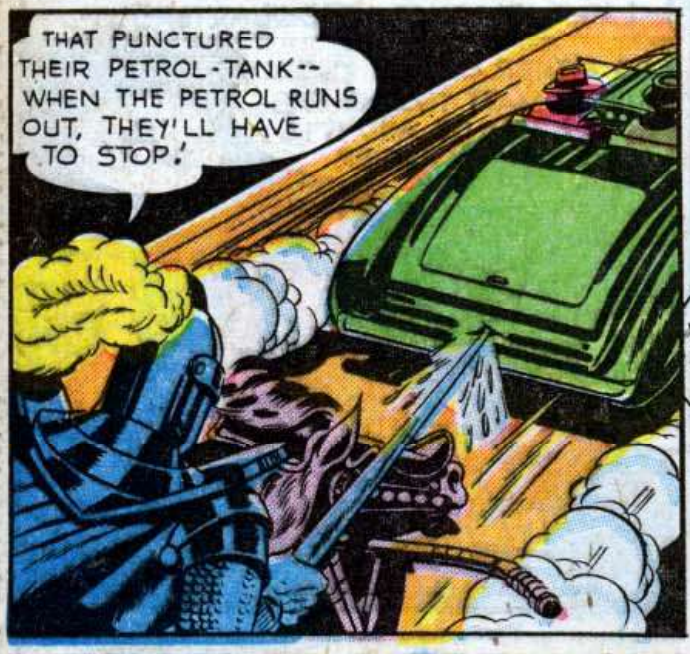
THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE? WHO ARE THEY? THE EARL OF WORDENSHIRE AND HIS SON CYRIL SEEM TO KNOW!
THE RECTORY BELL! THEY NEED THE KNIGHT AND SQUIRE!
THEN LAWBREAKERS MUST BE ABROAD, GOVERNOR! WE'D BETTER DON OUR SPECIAL COSTUMES!

HASTENING DOWN TO ONE OF THE SHADOWY CRYPTS BENEATH THE OLD CASTLE...
THEY'RE STILL RINGING!
WE'RE ALMOST READY!

PRESENTLY, TWO MASKED MEDIEVAL FIGURES ROAR OUT BY A SECRET PASSAGE, ON "WAR HORSES" THAT ARE REALLY POWERFUL MOTORCYCLES!
I'LL WAGER EVEN BATMAN AND ROBIN COULDN'T GET INTO COSTUME AND ANSWER A CALL FASTER THAN US!
WE'VE LEARNED A LOT BY STUDYING THEIR CASES AND IMITATING THEM!


THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE—AN ENGLISH IMITATION OF THE DYNAMIC DUO! AND JUST AS A SQUIRE OF OLD ASSISTED HIS KNIGHT, THIS SQUIRE ASSISTS HIS FATHER IN CRUSHING CRIME!
THE ROYAL PUB
TWO ROBBERS—THEY JUST CLEANED OUT THE PUB AND ESCAPED IN A MOTOR CAR!
WE'LL GO AFTER THEM!


MOMENTS LATER, AFTER A SWIFT PURSUIT...
I'LL USE MY LANCE TO STOP THEIR CAR!



BUT THE WAYS OF FATE ARE STRANGE, AND THE PATHS OF THE KNIGHT AND SQUIRE AND OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, ARE SOON TO CROSS! FOR ON THIS VERY NIGHT, ACROSS THE OCEAN IN GOTHAM CITY...

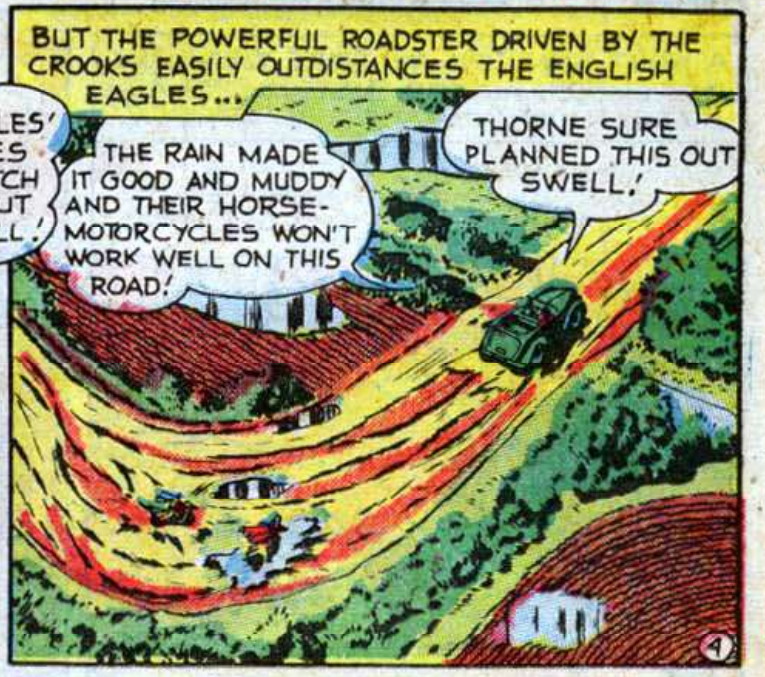
MIND IF WE DROP IN ON YOU?
GRAB THEM WHILE THEY'RE STILL STUNNED!

LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
DO EITHER OF YOU KNOW WHERE MATT THORNE HAS GONE? TELL US, AND IT'LL MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR YOU!
I'LL TALK!

THORNE AND HIS MOB WENT TO ENGLAND! THEY GOT ON THE TRAIL OF RICH LOOT-- A TREASURE IN GOLD BURIED DURING THE WAR BY NAZI SPIES, BEFORE THEY WERE CAUGHT!
THEN WE'LL FOLLOW THORNE--TO ENGLAND!

LATER, MATT THORNE AND HIS GANG REACH THE ENGLISH VILLAGE ON A TREASURE-TRAIL!
THOSE CAPTURED NAZI SPIES BURIED THEIR LOOT SOMEWHERE HERE, AND LEFT CLUES SO OTHER SPIES COULD FIND IT! WE'LL FIND IT—AND THIS IS HOW WE'LL START TRACING IT DOWN—

SOON, THE CLAMOROUS RECTORY BELL AGAIN SUMMONS THE KNIGHT AND SQUIRE!
SMASH-AND-GRAB THIEVES DID THAT! THE CONSTABLES ARE PURSUING THEIR MOTOR CAR!
THE CONSTABLES' BICYCLES CAN'T CATCH THEM, BUT WE WILL!


BUT THE POWERFUL ROADSTER DRIVEN BY THE CROOKS EASILY OUTDISTANCES THE ENGLISH EAGLES...
THE RAIN MADE IT GOOD AND MUDDY AND THEIR HORSE-MOTORCYCLES WON'T WORK WELL ON THIS ROAD!
THORNE SURE PLANNED THIS OUT SWELL!

BACK IN THE VILLAGE, TWO FAMOUS VISITORS HAVE JUST ARRIVED...
FIRST WE'LL FIND OUT IF THE POLICE HERE HAVE SEEN MATT THORNE.'
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT CRIME COULD COME TO THIS QUAINT OLD VILLAGE.'
WORDENSHIRE CONSTABULARY

THORNE.' HE'S ROBBING THE POLICE STATION!
WE DECOYED AWAY THOSE HICK ENGLISH COPS AND THE KNIGHT AND SQUIRE, AND NOW BATMAN AND ROBIN SHOW UP!

ROBIN, YOUR CORNY ENGLISH SLANG IS AWFUL.'
JOLLY MEETING YOU HERE, OLD BEAN.'

AT THAT MOMENT, AS THE BRITISH CRIME-BUSTERS RETURN EMPTY-HANDED...
I SAW STRANGERS GO INTO THE POLICE STATION, AND THERE'S A ROW GOING ON IN THERE.'
SO THAT'S WHY THOSE CROOKS LURED US AND THE CONSTABLES AWAY.' COME ON, MY SQUIRE.'

WHY, IT'S BATMAN-- THE REAL BATMAN.'
AM I SEEING THINGS?
LOOK OUT, WHOEVER YOU ARE.'

QUICK, OUT OF HERE.'
I SAY, WHAT IS ALL THIS--

THORNE ESCAPED! ARE THESE TWO MEDIEVAL CHARACTERS HIS ACCOMPLICES!
I'M HORRIBLY SORRY! I'M AFRAID WE RUINED THINGS FOR YOU! AND WE WERE TRYING TO FIGHT CRIME, LIKE YOU TWO!

AFTER THE KNIGHT REVEALS HIS SECRET IDENTITY AND TELLS HIS STORY...
AND THAT'S WHY CYRIL AND I DECIDED TO IMITATE YOU AND COMBAT CRIME! BUT WE'VE BUNGLED THINGS BADLY!
DON'T FEEL BAD! YOU JUST HAVEN'T HAD OUR EXPERIENCE WITH BIG-TIME CROOKS! NOW, SUPPOSE THE SQUIRE TAKES ROBIN'S PLACE AND ROBIN TAKES HIS? THAT WAY, WE'LL BE ABLE TO TEACH YOU SOME OF OUR TRICKS!

IT WILL BE WONDERFUL, WORKING WITH YOU TWO CHAPS! BUT NOW, WHY WOULD THIS THORNE ROGUE WANT TO ROB A POLICE STATION?
THEY WERE AFTER THE COURT RECORDS OF THE NAZI SPIES CAUGHT NEAR HERE, YEARS AGO! AND I'M AFRAID THEY GOT THOSE RECORDS!

I REMEMBER THAT THOSE SPIES WERE CAUGHT AT STONEHENGE, NEAR HERE!
THEN THE SQUIRE AND I WILL GO THERE! YOU AND ROBIN PATROL THE ROADS AROUND HERE IN SEARCH OF THEM -- I'LL CONTACT ROBIN BY BELT-RADIO!

MEANWHILE AT STONEHENGE, WEIRD, HUGE ENGLISH SURVIVAL OF A FORGOTTEN CIVILIZATION...
STOP WHIMPERING! THIS IS WHERE THOSE NAZI SPIES WERE CAUGHT! THERE MUST BE A CLUE AROUND AS TO WHERE THEIR HOARD WAS HIDDEN!
THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

THERE'S NO CLUE TO BE SEEN HERE.'
NOT BY ORDINARY LIGHT.' BUT THIS ULTRA-VIOLET LAMP WAS IN THE SPIES' POSSESSION WHEN THEY WERE CAPTURED.' I'VE A HUNCH IT'S TO BE USED TO REVEAL THE CLUES.'
SEE THE Stone Age Exhibits IN ENGLISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT BRINGS OUT A HIDDEN CLUE.'
THE NAME OF THE MUSEUM IS CIRCLED, SO THE NEXT CLUE MUST BE THERE.'
BATMAN'S COMING.' QUICK, WE'LL WAIT FOR THEM IN AMBUSH.'
SEE THE Stone Age Exhibits IN ENGLISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

PRESENTLY...
LOOK, FRESH TRACKS IN THIS MUD GO TOWARD THOSE STONES, BUT NOT AWAY FROM THEM.'
I DON'T SEE ANYONE HERE.'

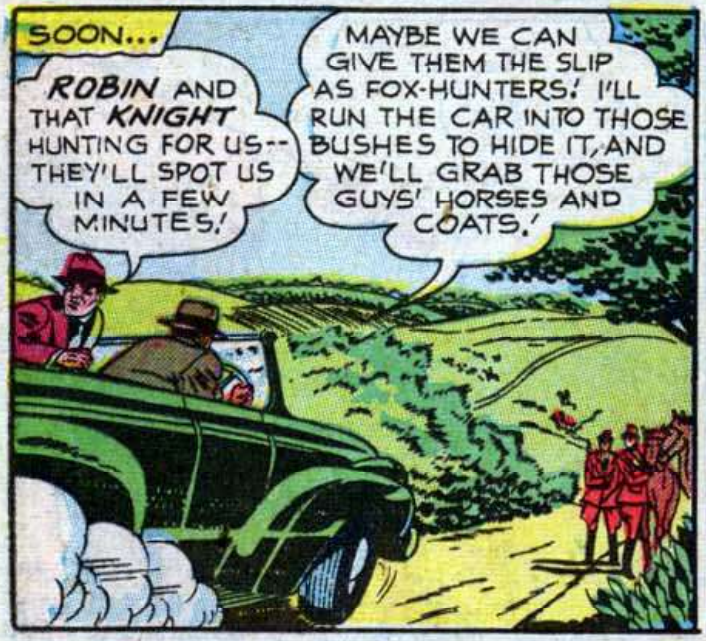
THEN THEY'RE STILL UP THERE HIDING.'
WAIT, DON'T—

TOO LATE TO STOP HIS RASH ASSOCIATE, THE BATMAN RACES TO HELP HIM.'
STOP AND STAY HERE WHILE WE GET AWAY—OR THIS KID GETS IT.'
I CAN'T RISK CYRIL'S LIFE.'
ALL RIGHT, I HAVE TO AGREE.'

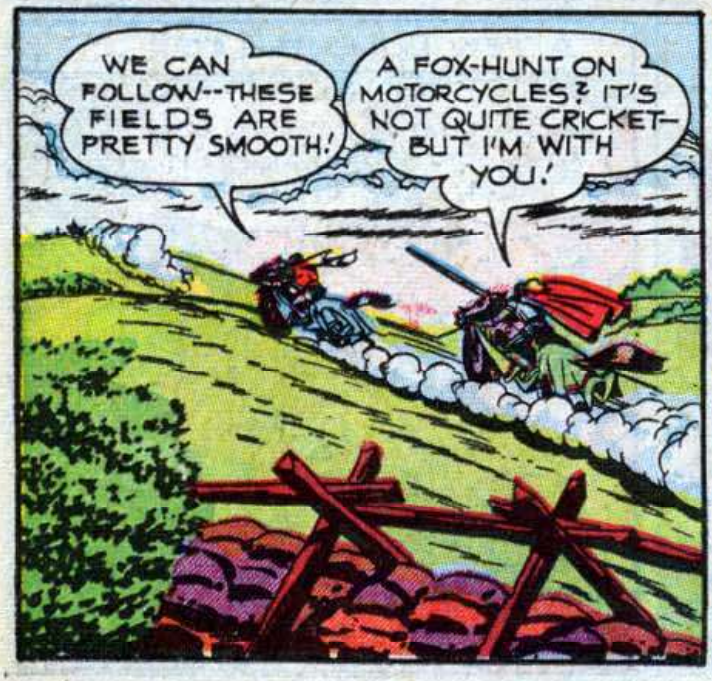
A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
HA, HA, THAT STYMIED THEM.'
THANKS FOR MAKING IT EASY, KID.'

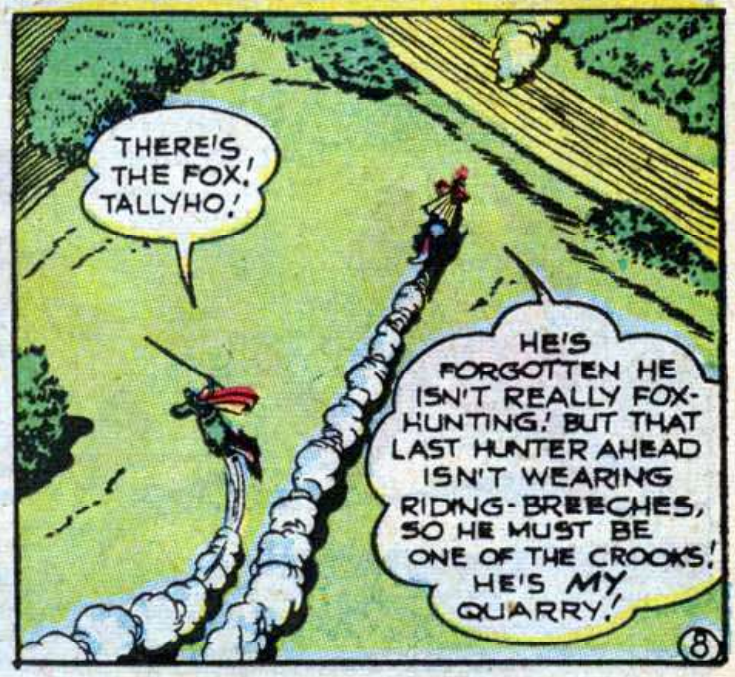
THEY GOT AWAY— AND IT WAS MY FAULT!
SQUIRE, YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN NEVER TO RUSH IN ON DANGER WITHOUT A PLAN! MEANWHILE, I'LL CALL ROBIN BY BELT-RADIO--MAYBE HE AND THE KNIGHT CAN INTERCEPT THEM!

AS ROBIN AND THE KNIGHT SEARCH THE ROADS...
I SAY, ROBIN, ISN'T IT TIME WE STOPPED FOR A SPOT OF TEA?
HMPH! YOU CAN'T CATCH CROOKS THAT WAY--BUT LISTEN, BATMAN'S CALLING ME!
CROOKS HEADING NORTHEAST--TRY TO INTERCEPT THEM! DESCRIPTION OF CAR IS--


SOON...
ROBIN AND THAT KNIGHT HUNTING FOR US--THEY'LL SPOT US IN A FEW MINUTES!
MAYBE WE CAN GIVE THEM THE SLIP AS FOX-HUNTERS! I'LL RUN THE CAR INTO THOSE BUSHES TO HIDE IT, AND WE'LL GRAB THOSE GUYS' HORSES AND COATS!

BUT ROBIN'S KEEN EYES NOTICE FRESH CARTRACKS OFF THE ROAD, AND...
I THOUGHT ONLY A CAR TRYING TO HIDE WOULD TURN OFF INTO THESE BUSHES!
THEY TOOK OUR COATS AND HORSES AND JOINED THE HUNT!


WE CAN FOLLOW--THESE FIELDS ARE PRETTY SMOOTH!
A FOX-HUNT ON MOTORCYCLES? IT'S NOT QUITE CRICKET—BUT I'M WITH YOU!


THERE'S THE FOX! TALLYHO!
HE'S FORGOTTEN HE ISN'T REALLY FOX-HUNTING! BUT THAT LAST HUNTER AHEAD ISN'T WEARING RIDING-BREECHES, SO HE MUST BE ONE OF THE CROOKS! HE'S MY QUARRY!

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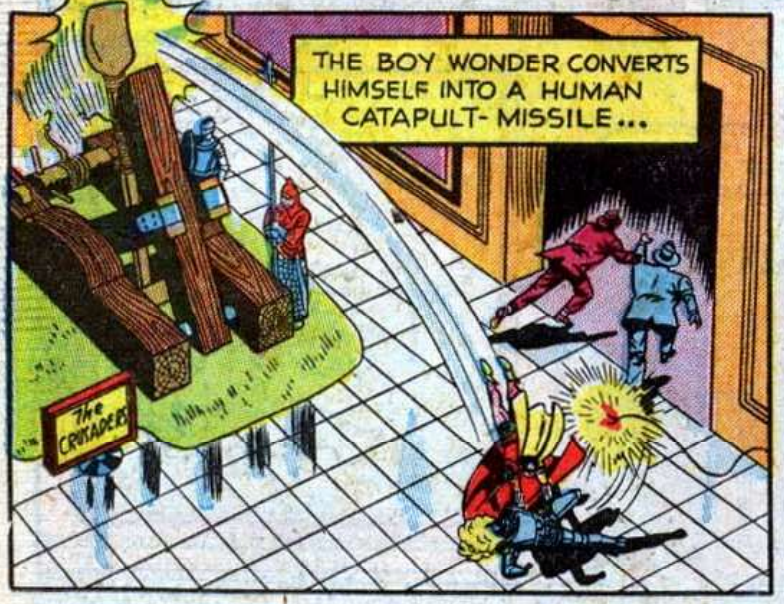

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RACING THROUGH THE NIGHT, TWO PAIRS OF MAN-HUNTERS SWEEP TO THE CLIMAX OF A THREE-THOUSAND-MILE CHASE.'
WE CAN'T GET IN THROUGH OUR SECRET ENTRANCE-- THEY FOUND IT AND LOWERED THE PORTCULLIS TO BAR IT.'
AND THEY'VE RAISED THE DRAWBRIDGE.'
BUT THAT ANCIENT GALLOWS UP THERE MAY COME IN HANDY.'

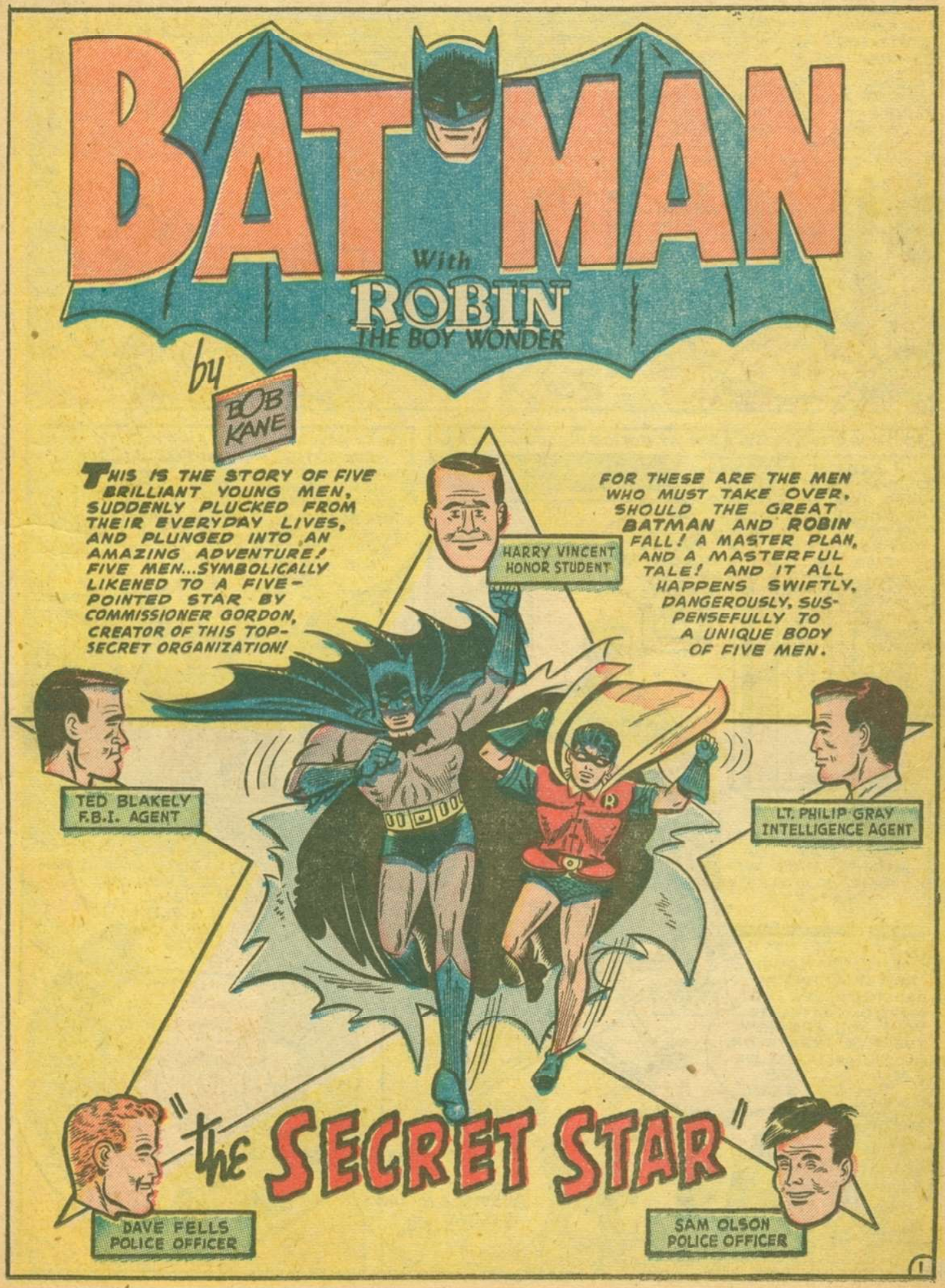
A DEFT NOOSE IS HURLED UP AROUND THE OLD GALLOWS, AND...
I'M PROBABLY THE FIRST MAN TO SWING FROM THAT IN A THOUSAND YEARS.'

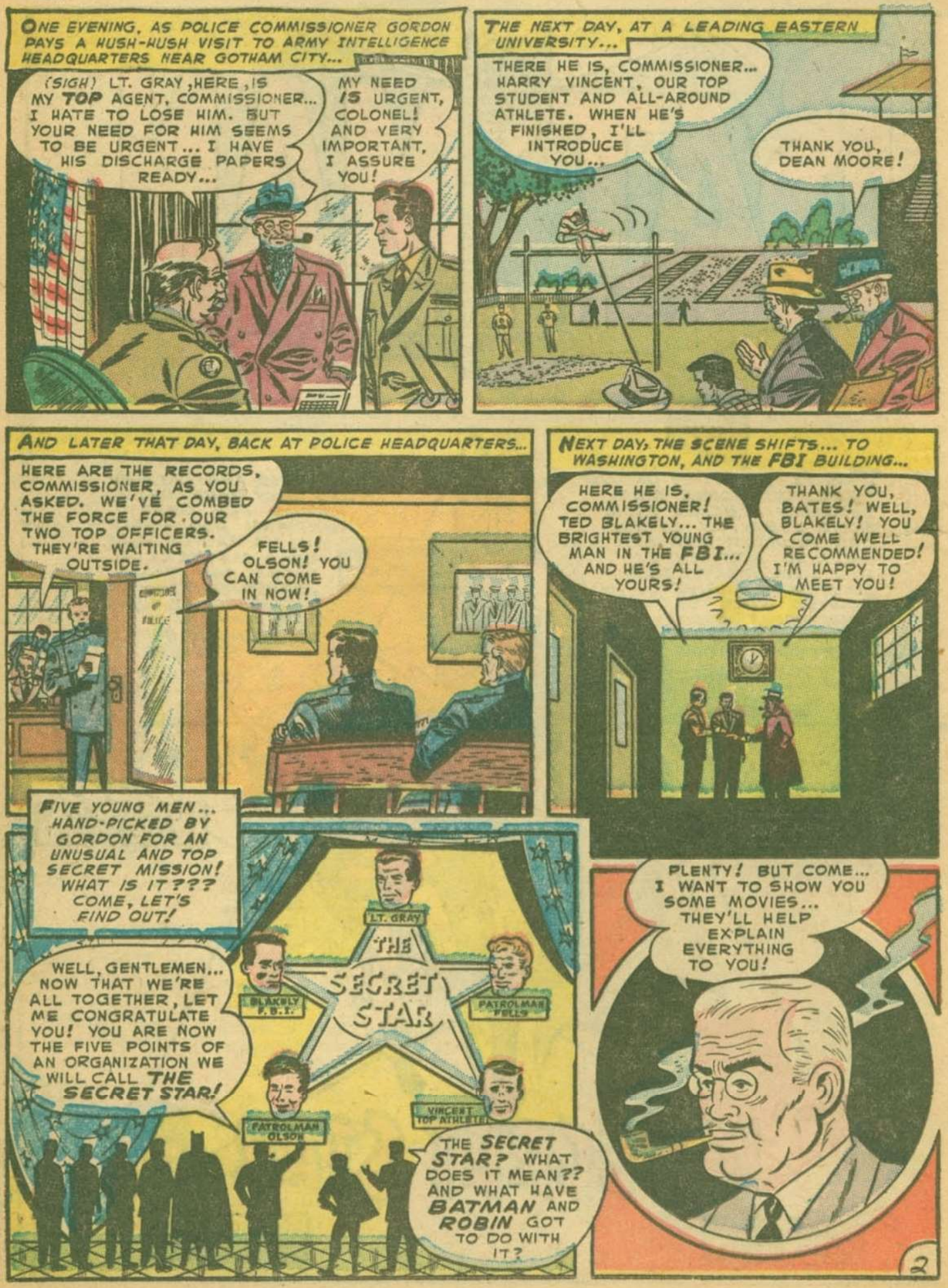
MOMENTS LATER...
THEY MUST BE DOWN IN THE CRYPTS NOW.'
I'LL LEAD THE WAY.'

LOOK! THOSE EXTRA "MOTORCYCLE-HORSES".' THEY PROVE THAT THIS KNIGHT AND SQUIRE ARE REALLY THE EARL AND HIS SON.'
AND THESE GOLD BARS WERE BURIED IN THEIR CRYPTS YEARS AGO, WITHOUT THEM KNOWING.'

SUDDENLY...
YES, SIR KNIGHT--
REMEMBER WHAT BATMAN AND ROBIN TAUGHT US, MY SQUIRE.'

MORE BATTLING BATMAN AND ROBIN STORIES IN DETECTIVE COMICS AND WORLD'S FINEST COMICS NOW ON SALE


BATMAN
With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
by
BOB KANE
THIS IS THE STORY OF FIVE BRILLIANT YOUNG MEN, SUDDENLY PLUCKED FROM THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES, AND PLUNGED INTO AN AMAZING ADVENTURE! FIVE MEN...SYMBOLICALLY LIKENED TO A FIVE-POINTED STAR BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, CREATOR OF THIS TOP-SECRET ORGANIZATION!
FOR THESE ARE THE MEN WHO MUST TAKE OVER, SHOULD THE GREAT BATMAN AND ROBIN FALL! A MASTER PLAN, AND A MASTERFUL TALE! AND IT ALL HAPPENS SWIFTLY, DANGEROUSLY, SUSPENSEFULLY TO A UNIQUE BODY OF FIVE MEN.
HARRY VINCENT
HONOR STUDENT
TED BLAKELY
F.B.I. AGENT
LT. PHILIP GRAY
INTELLIGENCE AGENT
"the SECRET STAR"
DAVE FELLS
POLICE OFFICER
SAM OLSON
POLICE OFFICER


ONE EVENING, AS POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON PAYS A HUSH-HUSH VISIT TO ARMY INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS NEAR GOTHAM CITY...
(SIGH) LT. GRAY, HERE, IS MY TOP AGENT, COMMISSIONER... I HATE TO LOSE HIM. BUT YOUR NEED FOR HIM SEEMS TO BE URGENT... I HAVE HIS DISCHARGE PAPERS READY...
MY NEED IS URGENT, COLONEL! AND VERY IMPORTANT, I ASSURE YOU!
THE NEXT DAY, AT A LEADING EASTERN UNIVERSITY...
THERE HE IS, COMMISSIONER... HARRY VINCENT, OUR TOP STUDENT AND ALL-AROUND ATHLETE. WHEN HE'S FINISHED, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU...
THANK YOU, DEAN MOORE!
AND LATER THAT DAY, BACK AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
HERE ARE THE RECORDS, COMMISSIONER, AS YOU ASKED. WE'VE COMBED THE FORCE FOR OUR TWO TOP OFFICERS. THEY'RE WAITING OUTSIDE.
FELLS! OLSON! YOU CAN COME IN NOW!
NEXT DAY, THE SCENE SHIFTS... TO WASHINGTON, AND THE FBI BUILDING...
HERE HE IS, COMMISSIONER! TED BLAKELY... THE BRIGHTEST YOUNG MAN IN THE FBI... AND HE'S ALL YOURS!
THANK YOU, BATES! WELL, BLAKELY! YOU COME WELL RECOMMENDED! I'M HAPPY TO MEET YOU!
FIVE YOUNG MEN... HAND-PICKED BY GORDON FOR AN UNUSUAL AND TOP SECRET MISSION! WHAT IS IT??? COME, LET'S FIND OUT!
WELL, GENTLEMEN... NOW THAT WE'RE ALL TOGETHER, LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU! YOU ARE NOW THE FIVE POINTS OF AN ORGANIZATION WE WILL CALL THE SECRET STAR!
LT. GRAY
THE SECRET STAR
BLAKELY F.B.I.
PATROLMAN FELLS
PATROLMAN OLSON
VINCENT TOP ATHLETE
THE SECRET STAR? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?? AND WHAT HAVE BATMAN AND ROBIN GOT TO DO WITH IT?
PLENTY! BUT COME... I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOME MOVIES... THEY'LL HELP EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU!

FIVE YOUNG MEN...ON THE BRINK OF A GREAT ADVENTURE! WHAT IS THEIR REACTION? HOW DO THEY FEEL? LET'S FOLLOW THEM, AS THEY LEAVE HEADQUARTERS...

HOW'D YOU EVER GET A HOLD ON BLAKELY, SUGAR? YOU NEVER DID TELL ME... HOW YOU GOT AN FBI MAN IN YOUR POWER!
YEARS AGO, HIS OLD MAN SHARED MY CELL AT THE PEN. THE OLD MAN DIED WHEN THE KID WAS TWO. THERE WAS NO MOTHER! SO I SORT OF TOOK OVER THE KID... WHEN I GOT OUT...

BUT I PLAYED IT SMART! I INVESTED MY CACHED LOOT IN THE KID, BUT ALWAYS KEPT MY NAME OUT OF IT. SENT HIM TO THE BEST SCHOOLS, SET UP A WHOLE FICTITIOUS FAMILY TREE FOR HIM. ONLY NO ONE KNOWS IT... EXCEPT HIM... ME... AND NOW, YOU! HE'LL DO ANYTHING FOR ME!
Ted at 15--
A Student at Alton Prep

GOSH! I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, SUGAR! YOU WORKED SOME DEAL FOR YOURSELF!
RIGHT! HOW MANY MEN DO YOU KNOW WHO HAVE A SPY WITHIN THE FBI? HA-HA! AND NOW I MUST MEET MY YOUNG WARD... AND GET THE LATEST NEWS!

LATER, IN THE BALCONY OF AN OLD AND SEEDY GOTHAM CITY MOVIE THEATRE...
...SO THAT'S IT! NO MORE FBI... FROM NOW ON I'M AN UNDERSTUDY FOR BATMAN!
TERRIFIC! WHEN YOUR TRAINING'S FINISHED, I'LL KNOCK OFF BATMAN! THEN YOU AND ME'LL TAKE OVER THIS TOWN!

SUDDENLY...
LISTEN... I'M GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME SINCE I WAS A KID. AND I'LL HELP YOU WHENEVER I CAN... BUT NO MURDER!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! DON'T GET SO EXCITED! I'LL FIGURE OUT ANOTHER ANGLE!

THE NEXT EVENING, AFTER THE MEMBERS OF THE SECRET STAR HAVE BEEN ESCORTED TO THE HIDDEN BATCAVE TO BEGIN THEIR TRAINING PROGRAM...
GENTLEMEN, YOU MAY REMOVE YOUR BLINDFOLDS NOW... YOU'RE IN THE BATCAVE! THIS IS OUR CRIME LAB... YOU'LL NOTE ROBIN AND I HAVE BEEN TESTING SOME NEW EQUIPMENT!
A POWERFUL NEW SOUND AMPLIFIER, FOR INSTANCE, IT CAN DO WONDERS...

HERE'S OUR HALL OF TROPHIES. IT CONTAINS SOUVENIRS OF SOME OF GOTHAM CITY'S GREATEST CRIMES...
AND A CONSTANT REMINDER TO BATMAN OF THE DANGERS HE'S FACED. ONE OF THE REASONS YOU'RE ALL HERE TONIGHT!

THEN, SOON AFTER...
FIRST THINGS FIRST! YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO OPERATE THE BATPLANE AND THE BATMOBILE!
RIGHT NOW WE'VE REMOVED THE TOP SECRET DEVICES OF BOTH MACHINES. YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT THEM AS A GRADUATION PRESENT!

AND, AS TIME PASSES...
NO, BLAKELY! BEFORE YOU USE THE UTILITY BELT'S GAS PELLETS, ALWAYS MAKE SURE YOU'VE INSERTED THE FILTERS IN YOUR NOSE!
COUGH COUGH
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE POISON GAS HISSING UP AT YOU, FELLS! YOU SHOULD HAVE LEANED OVER AND GRABBED THAT CANDLE WITH YOUR TEETH. THEN, BY TWISTING YOUR HEAD TO THE RIGHT SPOT, YOU COULD HAVE DROPPED WAX DRIPPINGS INTO THE HOLE AND CLOSED IT UP!
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER, OLSON! GETTING YOUR BATMAN UNIFORM ON SHOULD BE A MATTER OF JUST A FEW SECONDS!

AND, AS THE PROSPECTIVE BATMEN STUDY FURTHER IN THE CRIME LAB...
CLICK
DID YOU HEAR THAT "CLICK," BATMAN?
YES! HMM... WHERE HAVE I HEARD A "CLICK" LIKE THAT BEFORE???

LATER...
THAT DOES IT FOR TONIGHT! YOU'VE ALL COME ALONG VERY WELL... YOUR TRAINING'S ALMOST FINISHED. NOW LET'S GET THESE BLINDS ON SO THAT WE MAY TAKE YOU TO YOUR HOMES!

NEXT EVENING, IN THE HOME OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
OH, WELL! TIME FOR US TO GET READY FOR ANOTHER BATMAN-CONDUCTED TRAINING SESSION!
YOU'RE WRONG! TIME FOR US TO GET READY AS BATMAN AND ROBIN! THERE GOES THE BAT-SIGNAL!
BW

AND SCANT MOMENTS LATER...
BATMAN! A PAYROLL ROBBERY REPORTED AT THE ATHENS MINING CO! HURRY OVER THERE! ROBIN... YOU ROUND UP THE SECRET STAR I WANT THEM TO WATCH BATMAN IN ACTION!

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, AS BATMAN RACES THROUGH A TUNNEL OF A COAL MINE...
THAT SPLUTTERING SOUND... A FUSE! I'VE RUN INTO A TRAP!

IN THE NEXT MOMENT, AS A VIOLENT EXPLOSION RIPS THE TUNNEL!
BOOM
THE WHEELBARROW! NOT MEANT TO BE A BOMB SHELTER... BUT THAT'S WHAT IT HAS TO BE NOW!

BATMAN'S QUICK THINKING SAVES HIS LIFE... BUT THE TUNNEL HAS COLLAPSED ABOUT HIM!
I'VE GOT TO WORK FAST! ROBIN CAN LOCATE ME BY USING A DIRECTIONAL FINDER ON THE SIGNALS FROM MY BELT-RADIO!
BATMAN TO ROBIN! BATMAN TO ROBIN! COME IN, ROBIN!

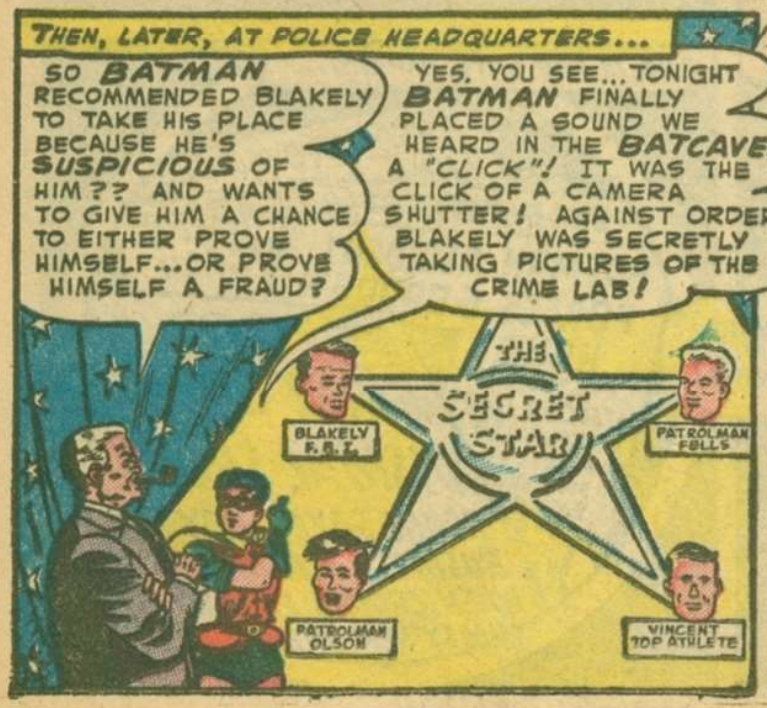
MEANWHILE...
NICE GOIN', SUGAR! THAT BLAST TOOK CARE OF BATMAN... BUT GOOD!
YES! HA-HA! AND I'M SURE I'M GOING TO LIKE MY NEW BATMAN MUCH MORE! COME ON, DALY... WE'RE OFF TO PHILLY TO ROUND UP A NEW GANG! THEN WE COME BACK... AND TAKE OVER!

A HALFHOUR LATER...
WE'VE REACHED BATMAN! THIS PIPE WILL BRING HIM OXYGEN, FOOD AND WATER! BUT THE SAND-HOGS SAY IT WILL TAKE TWO DAYS TO DIG HIM OUT!
THANK HEAVENS HE'S ALL RIGHT! HMM... TWO DAYS! THIS MIGHT BE THE TIME TO TEST OUR SECRET STAR! ROBIN... RADIO BATMAN... ASK HIM WHICH MAN HE RECOMMENDS TO TAKE OVER!

MEANWHILE, AS TED BLAKELY INVESTIGATES ON HIS OWN...
SNIFF! SNIFF!
CARAMEL! I WONDER..?

A MOMENT LATER...
COME ON, BLAKELY... WE'VE GOT TO GET OUR SIGNALS STRAIGHT! YOU'RE TAKING OVER AS BATMAN FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS!
ME???
THIS IS TOO SOON! I HADN'T FIGURED ON IT!

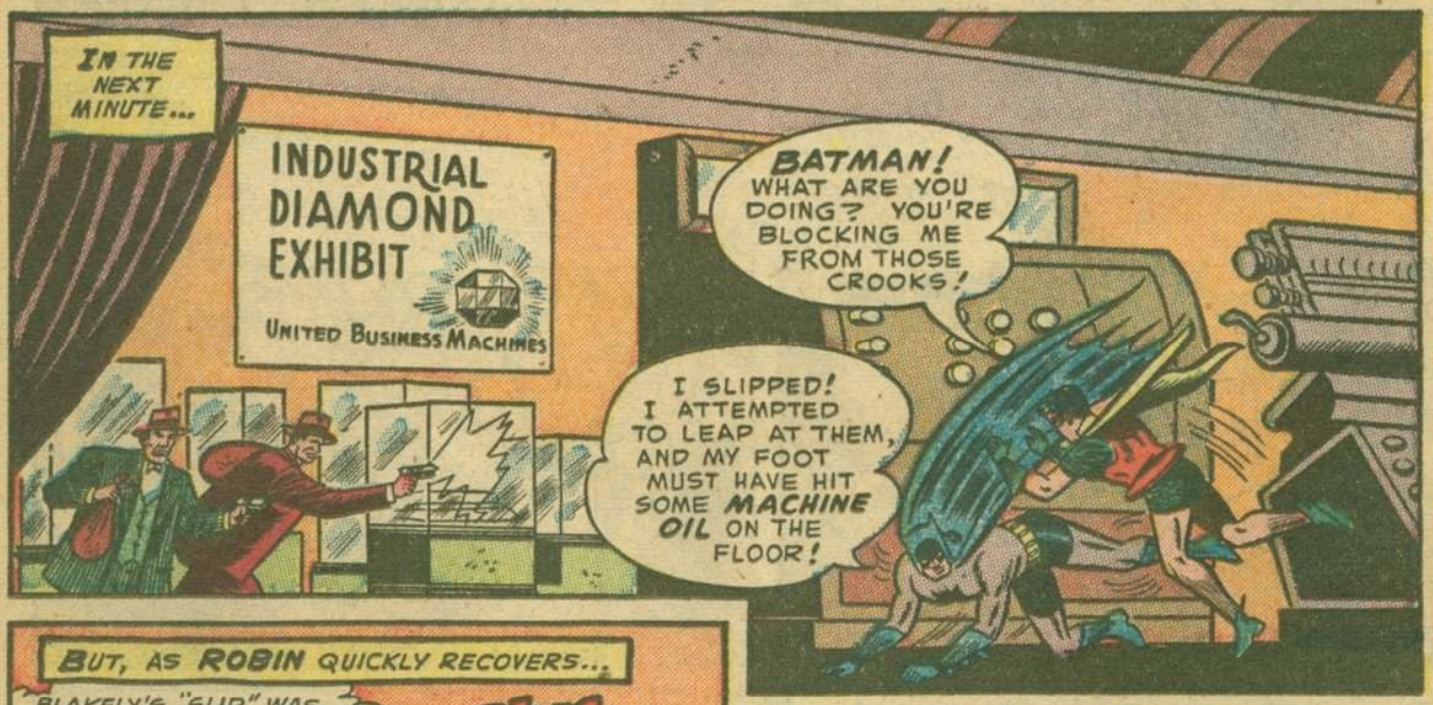
YOU'LL ANSWER THE BAT-SIGNAL! I'LL MEET YOU EACH TIME AT HEADQUARTERS. AT ALL OTHER TIMES, KEEP YOUR BELT RADIO HANDY! IN THAT WAY, I CAN ALWAYS KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU! COME ALONG NOW AND PICK UP YOUR UNIFORM...


THEN, LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
SO BATMAN RECOMMENDED BLAKELY TO TAKE HIS PLACE BECAUSE HE'S SUSPICIOUS OF HIM?? AND WANTS TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO EITHER PROVE HIMSELF...OR PROVE HIMSELF A FRAUD?
YES, YOU SEE...TONIGHT BATMAN FINALLY PLACED A SOUND WE HEARD IN THE BATCAVE.. A "CLICK"! IT WAS THE CLICK OF A CAMERA SHUTTER! AGAINST ORDERS, BLAKELY WAS SECRETLY TAKING PICTURES OF THE CRIME LAB!
THE SECRET STAR
BLAKELY F.B.I.
PATROLMAN FOLLS
PATROLMAN OLSON
VINCENT TOP ATHLETE

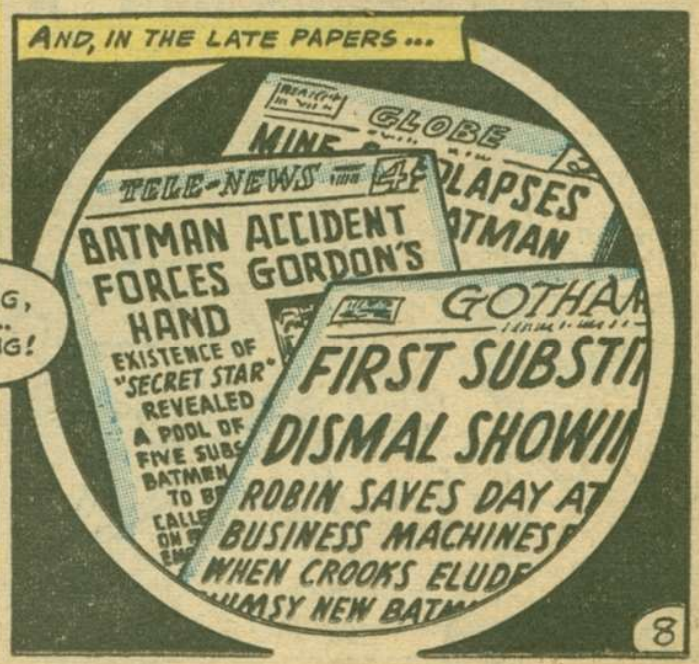
WE HEARD THE "CLICK" ONLY BECAUSE BLAKELY WAS STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO OUR NEW AMPLIFIER! BATMAN FEELS THAT IF BLAKELY CAN VIOLATE ONE TRUST, HE CAN VIOLATE OTHERS! WE'LL SOON SEE!

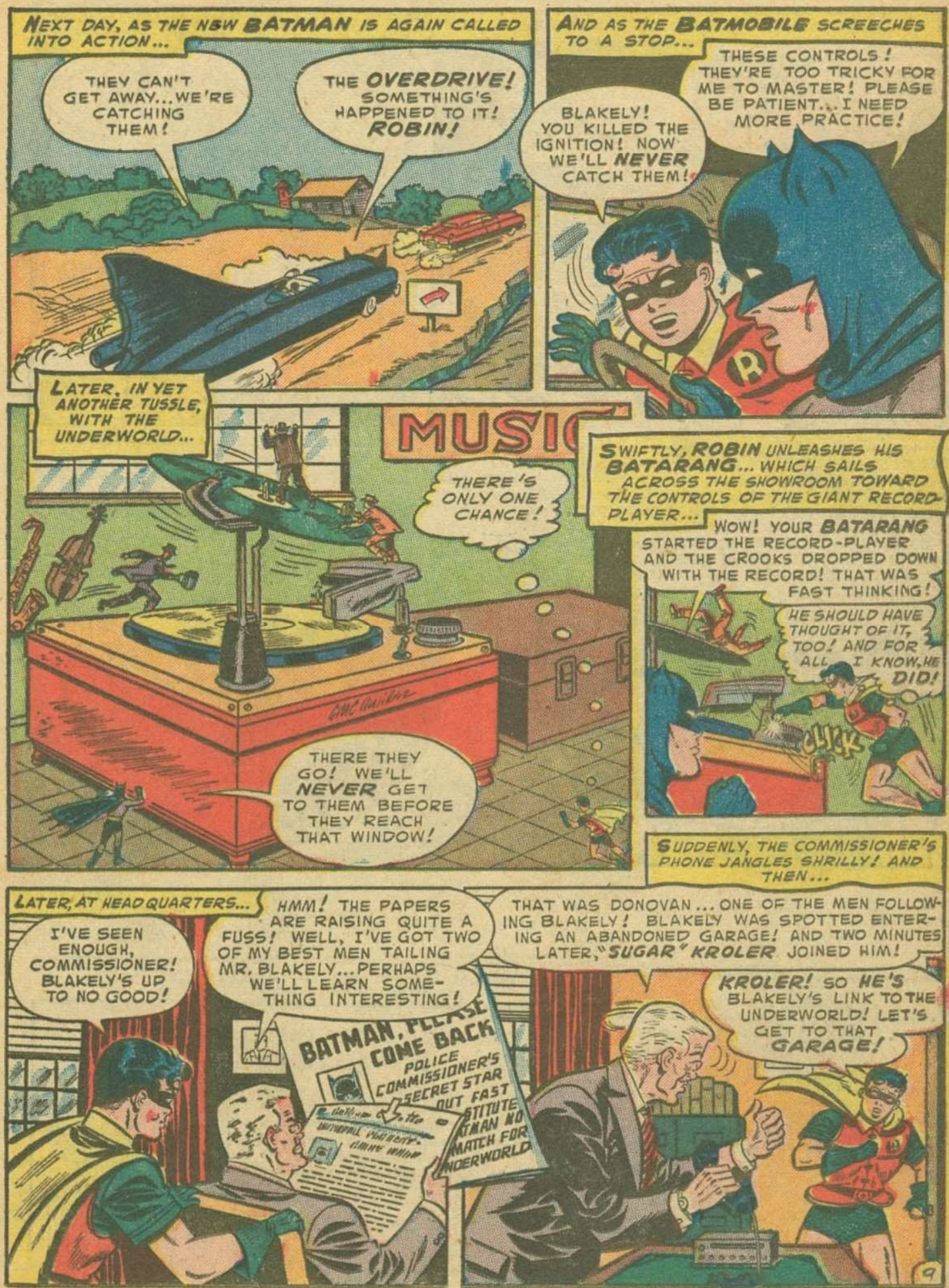
AND SCARCELY AN HOUR LATER!
TWO SHORT FLASHES OF THE BAT-SIGNAL... AND THEN A LONG ONE! MY SIGNAL, ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT TO RUSH TO HEADQUARTERS!
THERE IT IS! COMMISSIONER GORDON SAID CROOKS WERE ATTEMPTING TO STEAL INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS FROM THE EXHIBIT!

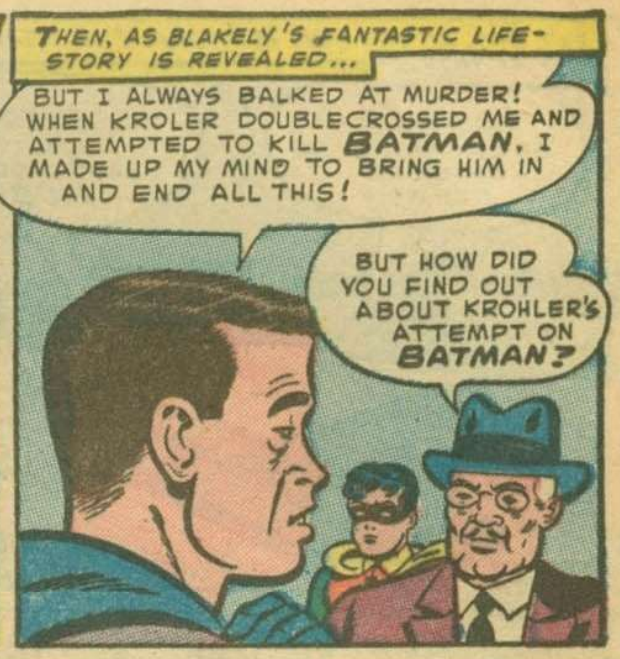
SOON AFTER, AS THE NEW BATMAN JOINS ROBIN AND BOTH SET FORTH AGAINST CRIME!
GOTHAM CO-LUM
UNITED BUS MACHINES EXHIBIT
CURRENTLY SHOWING IN MAIN EXHIBIT
HE SEEMS EAGER FOR THE FRAY... I WONDER WHAT HE'LL DO?


IN THE NEXT MINUTE...
INDUSTRIAL DIAMOND EXHIBIT
UNITED BUSINESS MACHINES
BATMAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE BLOCKING ME FROM THOSE CROOKS!
I SLIPPED! I ATTEMPTED TO LEAP AT THEM, AND MY FOOT MUST HAVE HIT SOME MACHINE OIL ON THE FLOOR!

BUT, AS ROBIN QUICKLY RECOVERS...
BLAKELY'S "SLIP" WAS PHONY! HE WAS LETTING THE CROOKS GET AWAY! LUCKY FOR ME THEY RAN PAST THIS CASH REGISTER!
BING
NO SALE
I'M COMING, ROBIN... I'M COMING!


AND, IN THE LATE PAPERS...
GLOBE
TELE-NEWS
BATMAN FORCES HAND
EXISTENCE OF "SECRET STAR" REVEALED
ACCIDENT GORDON'S
GOTHAM
FIRST SUBSTI
DISMAL SHOWI
ROBIN SAVES DAY AT
BUSINESS MACHINES
WHEN CROOKS ELUDE


NEXT DAY, AS THE NEW BATMAN IS AGAIN CALLED INTO ACTION...
THEY CAN'T GET AWAY...WE'RE CATCHING THEM!
THE OVERDRIVE! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO IT! ROBIN!
AND AS THE BATMOBILE SCREECHES TO A STOP...
BLAKELY! YOU KILLED THE IGNITION! NOW WE'LL NEVER CATCH THEM!
THESE CONTROLS! THEY'RE TOO TRICKY FOR ME TO MASTER! PLEASE BE PATIENT...I NEED MORE PRACTICE!
LATER, IN YET ANOTHER TUSSLE, WITH THE UNDERWORLD...
MUSIC
THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE!
THERE THEY GO! WE'LL NEVER GET TO THEM BEFORE THEY REACH THAT WINDOW!
SWIFTLY, ROBIN UNLEASHES HIS BATARANG... WHICH SAILS ACROSS THE SHOWROOM TOWARD THE CONTROLS OF THE GIANT RECORD-PLAYER...
WOW! YOUR BATARANG STARTED THE RECORD-PLAYER AND THE CROOKS DROPPED DOWN WITH THE RECORD! THAT WAS FAST THINKING!
HE SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF IT, TOO! AND FOR ALL I KNOW, HE DID!
CLYRK
SUDDENLY, THE COMMISSIONER'S PHONE JANGLES SHRILLY! AND THEN...
LATER, AT HEADQUARTERS...
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH, COMMISSIONER! BLAKELY'S UP TO NO GOOD!
HMM! THE PAPERS ARE RAISING QUITE A FUSS! WELL, I'VE GOT TWO OF MY BEST MEN TAILING MR. BLAKELY...PERHAPS WE'LL LEARN SOMETHING INTERESTING!
BATMAN, PLEASE COME BACK
POLICE COMMISSIONER'S SECRET STAR OUT FAST
STITUTE TMAN NO MATCH FOR NDERWORLD
THAT WAS DONOVAN...ONE OF THE MEN FOLLOWING BLAKELY! BLAKELY WAS SPOTTED ENTERING AN ABANDONED GARAGE! AND TWO MINUTES LATER, "SUGAR" KROLER JOINED HIM!
KROLER! SO HE'S BLAKELY'S LINK TO THE UNDERWORLD! LET'S GET TO THAT GARAGE!



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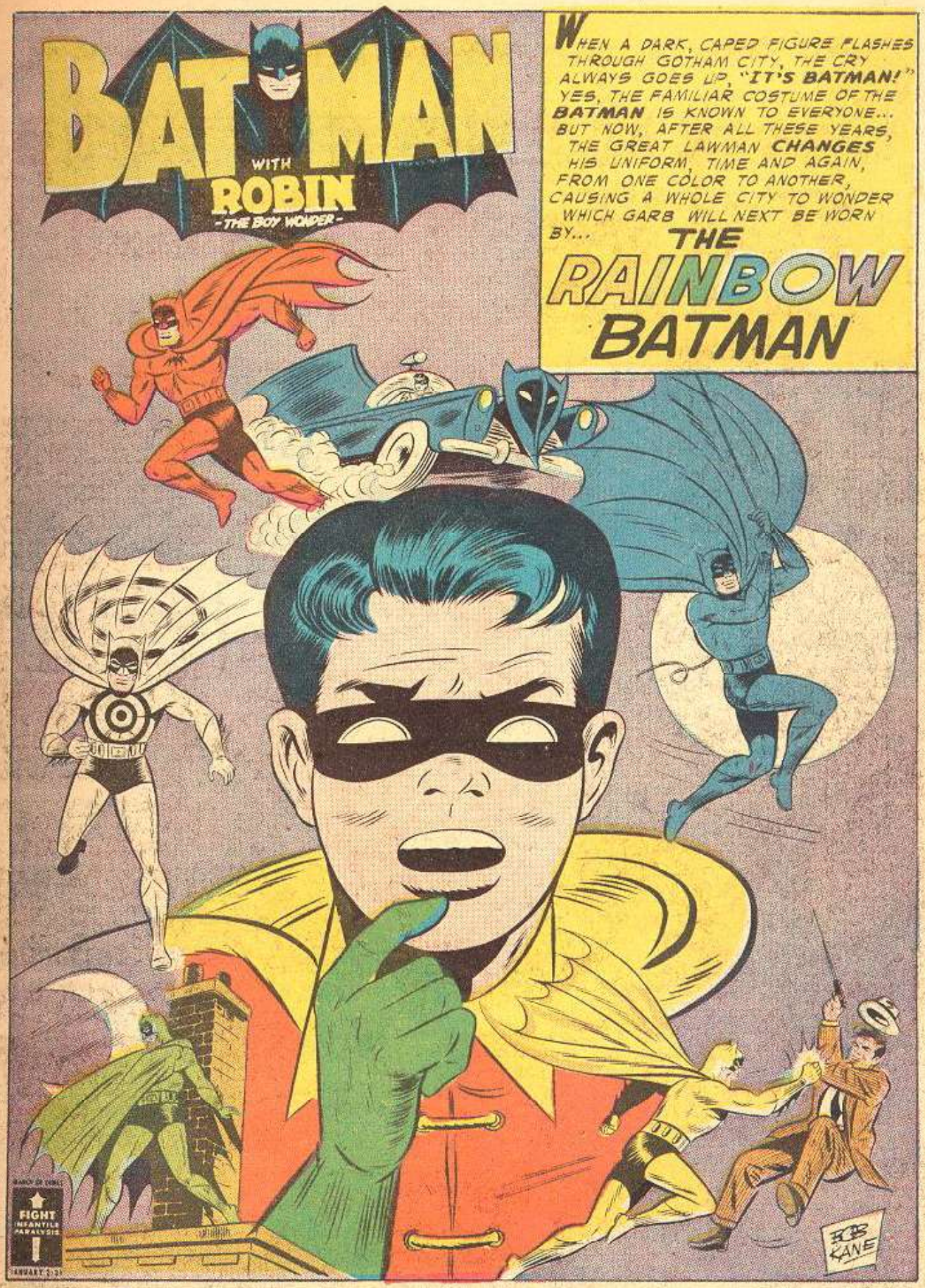

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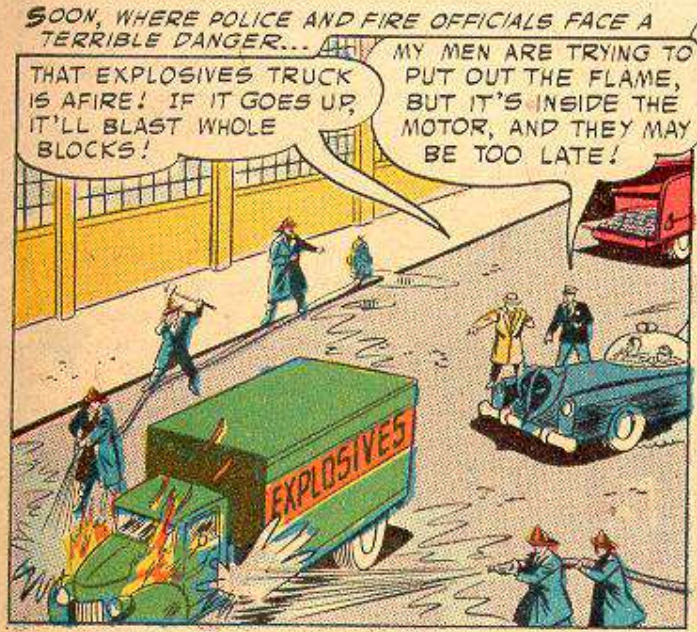
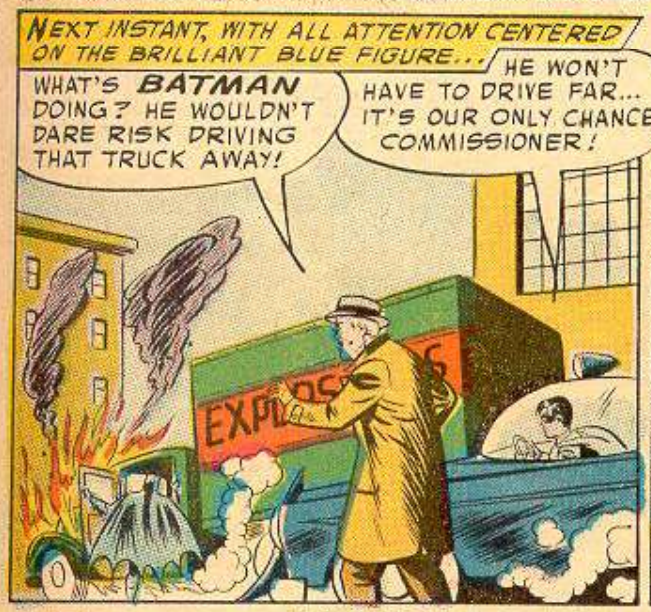
ONE MORNING, AS DICK GRAYSON -- SECRETLY ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER -- STROLLS ALONG A BUSY THOROUGHFARE...
HELP! THIEVES! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
OH, OH... MUST FIND SOME PLACE TO SWITCH TO ROBIN!
BUT A MOMENT LATER, AS THE GETAWAY CAR COMES ROARING DOWN THE STREET...
LOOK! THAT LITTLE GIRL!
WHAT--?
NO TIME TO CHANGE! GOT TO RESCUE THAT YOUNGSTER!
WITH PERFECT GRACE AND TIMING, THE BOY WONDER FLASHES INTO ACTION...
NICE WORK, SON! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I--I'M NOT SURE... I CRACKED MY ELBOW AGAINST THIS LAMP-POST!
SHORTLY, WHEN A DOCTOR ARRIVES...
THE ARM'S NOT BROKEN--BUT YOU'LL BE UNABLE TO USE IT FOR A WEEK OR SO!
GOSH... THAT'S TOO BAD!
AND AS REPORTERS REACH THE SCENE...
YES, THOSE THIEVES STOLE ONE OF OUR NEWEST PORTABLE TV CAMERAS, -- THE ONES USED FOR BROADCASTING SPECIAL EVENTS!
I SAW THEIR FACES, AND COULD IDENTIFY THEM! MUST GET HOME AND TELL BATMAN!

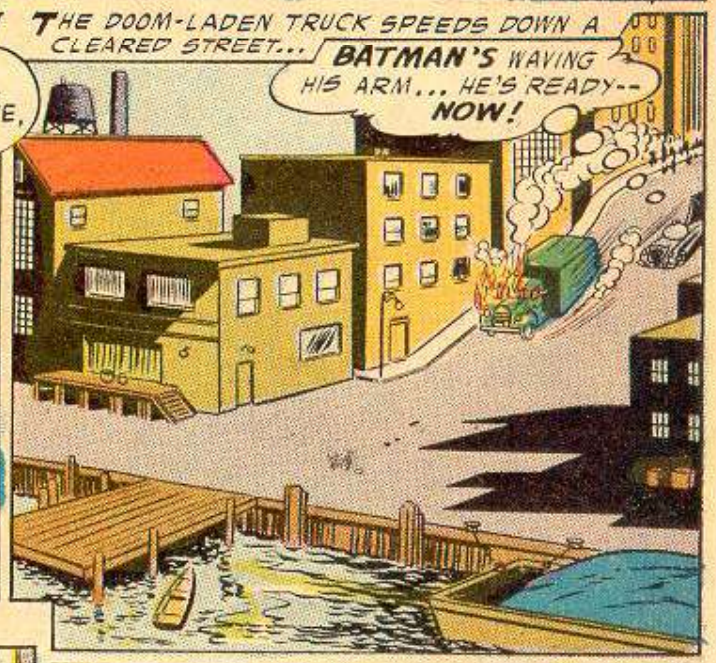
AWHILE LATER, IN THE MANSION OF DICK'S GUARDIAN, WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE, WHO IS REALLY THE FAMED BATMAN...
...AND THE THIEVES, WHO STOLE A VALUABLE CAMERA, WOULD HAVE RUN DOWN A CHILD BUT FOR A YOUTHFUL HERO, DICK GRAYSON! HE LOST THE USE OF HIS LEFT ARM TEMPORARILY, BUT SAVED A LIFE!
IT WASN'T AS BIG A FEAT AS ALL THAT! MY ARM WILL BE ALL RIGHT IN A LITTLE WHILE!
BUT WHY SHOULD ANYONE STEAL A PORTABLE TV CAMERA? THEY'D HAVE NO USE FOR IT-- AND COULDN'T SELL IT! THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER MOTIVE!
MAYBE I CAN SPOT THOSE CROOKS IN OUR CRIME FILE...
BUT, DOWN IN THEIR SECRET BAT-CAVE...
NO, THEIR PICTURES AREN'T IN OUR FILE... WE HAVEN'T ANY RECORD OF THEM!
I CAN ONLY SEE ONE MOTIVE FOR STEALING THAT CAMERA... AS PREPARATION FOR SOME BIG CRIME, TO BE STAGED WHERE TV CREWS WILL BE WORKING!
AS THE PAIR SWITCHES TO BATMAN AND ROBIN...
YOU MEAN-- THEY INTEND TO DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS TV CAMERAMEN SO THEY CAN GET CLOSE TO SOMETHING VALUABLE?
THAT'S WHAT I SUSPECT-- AND, FROM NOW ON, WE'RE GOING TO WATCH EVERY BIG EVENT COVERED BY TELEVISION! YOU CAN IDENTIFY THOSE CROOKS, IF THEY TURN UP!
SWIFTLY, BATMAN RELATES A UNIQUE STRATEGY...
BUT-- YOU'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE!
IN THIS CASE, IT'S NECESSARY! WE'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST, BECAUSE TOMORROW IS WHEN THE BIG OFFICIAL WELCOME TO THE KING OF ZORONIA TAKES PLACE-- AND TV MEN WILL BE THERE!
SO NEXT DAY, AT THE SCENE OF A BIG TICKER-TAPE RECEPTION...
LOOK... THERE'S BATMAN AND ROBIN! BUT-- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO BATMAN?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LOOKING LIKE THAT BEFORE!

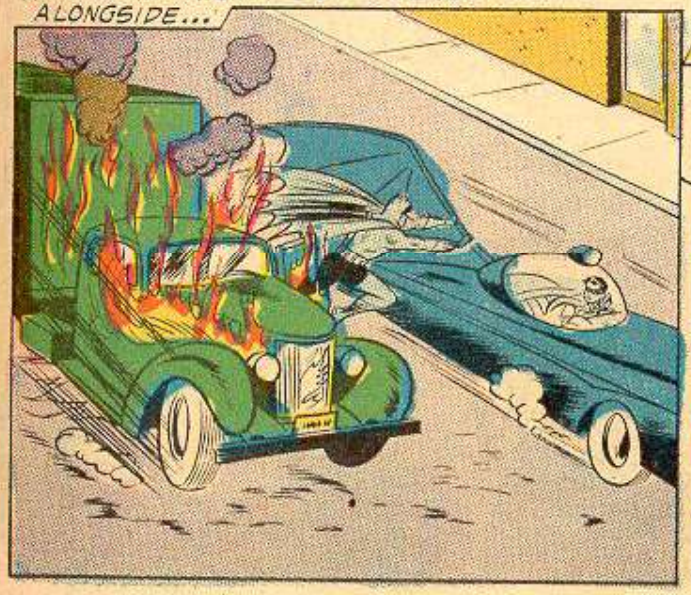
HE'S WEARING A RED COSTUME... BUT WHY?
I'LL CHECK THE TV CAMERAMEN IN THAT CAR, ROBIN-- WHILE YOU WATCH EVERY FACE FOR THE CROOKS YOU SAW!
HEY, LOOK AT BATMAN! A RED COSTUME-- AND HE'S JUMPING INTO OUR CAR!
JUST TO CHECK YOUR CAMERAS-- A SAFETY PRECAUTION!
AND, DURING AN OFFICIAL WELCOME, ALL EYES FOCUS NOT ON THE GUEST, BUT ON BATMAN...
THE THIEVES AREN'T ANYWHERE IN THE CROWD, BATMAN!
AND THE TV CAMERAMEN, HERE, ALL HAVE PROPER CREDENTIALS-- SO THIS ISN'T WHERE THEY PLAN TO STRIKE! WHEN THE WELCOME IS OVER, WE CAN LEAVE!
AFTERWARD...
WHY WOULD BATMAN, ALL OF A SUDDEN, WEAR A RED COSTUME?
HE MUST HAVE SOME REASON--BUT I CAN'T FIGURE IT!
THE ANSWER COMES A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTERS RACE TO ANSWER THE URGENT SUMMONS...
AND, LATER THAT DAY, WHEN A FAMILIAR IMAGE FLASHES IN THE SKY...
THE BAT-SIGNAL! POLICE HEADQUARTERS IS CALLING BATMAN!
WONDER IF HE'LL WEAR THAT RED COSTUME AGAIN?
WITH THE SPECIAL CONTROLS WE FITTED TO THE BAT-MOBILE, I CAN DRIVE WITH MY RIGHT HAND ALONE!
WHY, BATMAN'S WEARING A BLUE COSTUME NOW!
CLEANING

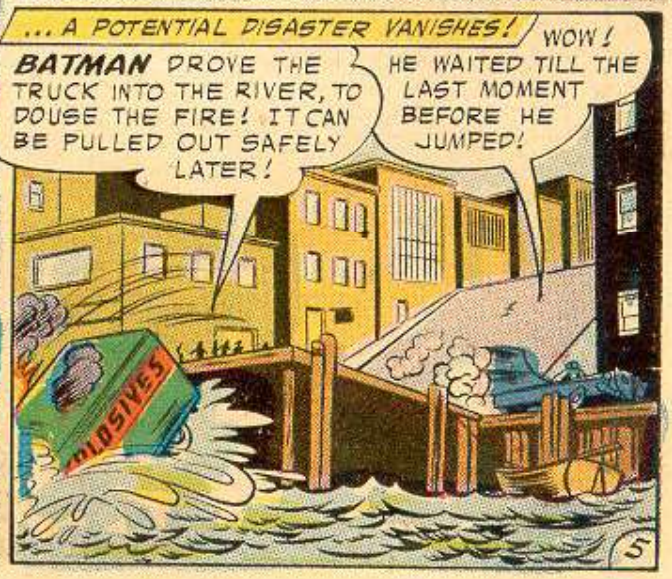

SOON, WHERE POLICE AND FIRE OFFICIALS FACE A TERRIBLE DANGER...
THAT EXPLOSIVES TRUCK IS AFIRE! IF IT GOES UP, IT'LL BLAST WHOLE BLOCKS!
MY MEN ARE TRYING TO PUT OUT THE FLAME, BUT IT'S INSIDE THE MOTOR, AND THEY MAY BE TOO LATE!
EXPLOSIVES

ONLY ONE WAY TO HANDLE IT, ROBIN... I'LL TAKE THE TRUCK--YOU COVER ME WITH THE BATMOBILE!
I GET IT!


NEXT INSTANT, WITH ALL ATTENTION CENTERED ON THE BRILLIANT BLUE FIGURE...
WHAT'S BATMAN DOING? HE WOULDN'T DARE RISK DRIVING THAT TRUCK AWAY!
HE WON'T HAVE TO DRIVE FAR... IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE, COMMISSIONER!


THE DOOM-LADEN TRUCK SPEEDS DOWN A CLEARED STREET...
BATMAN'S WAVING HIS ARM... HE'S READY--NOW!

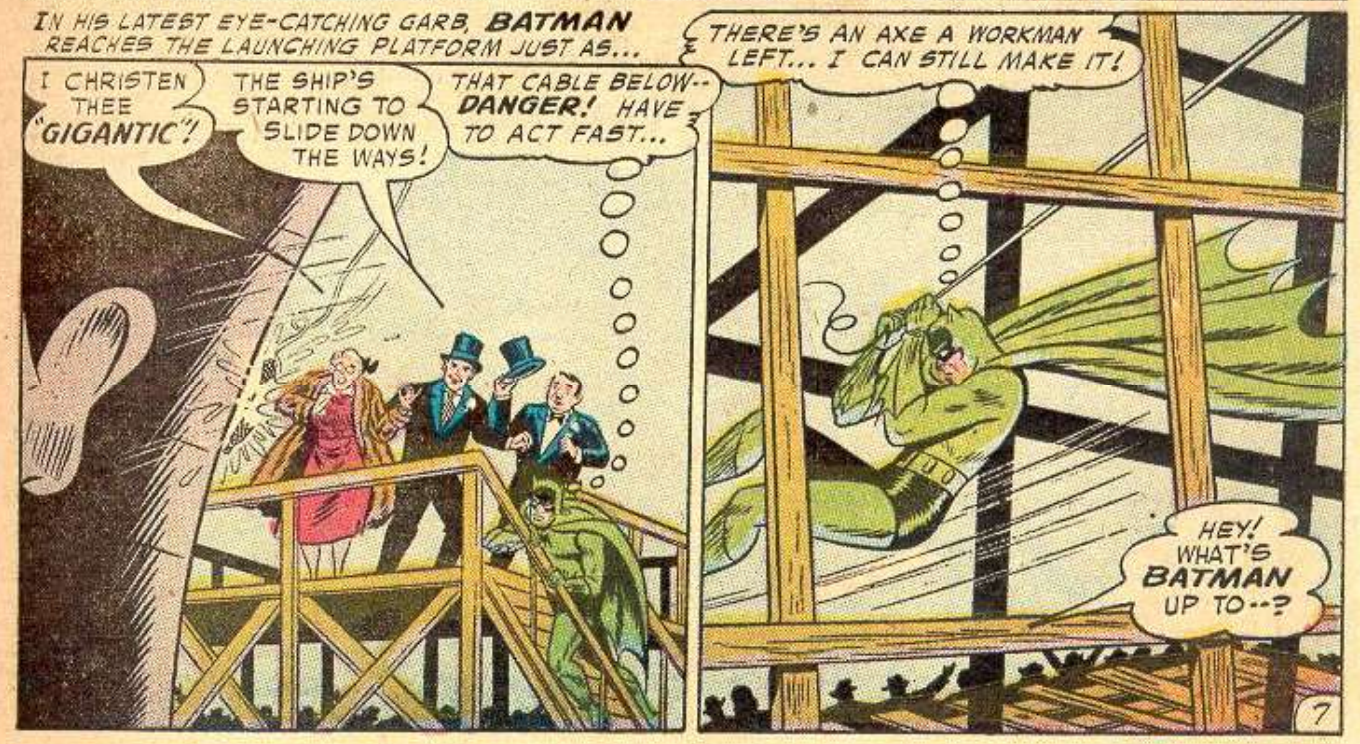

AND AS THE MIGHTY BATMOBILE ROARS ALONGSIDE...

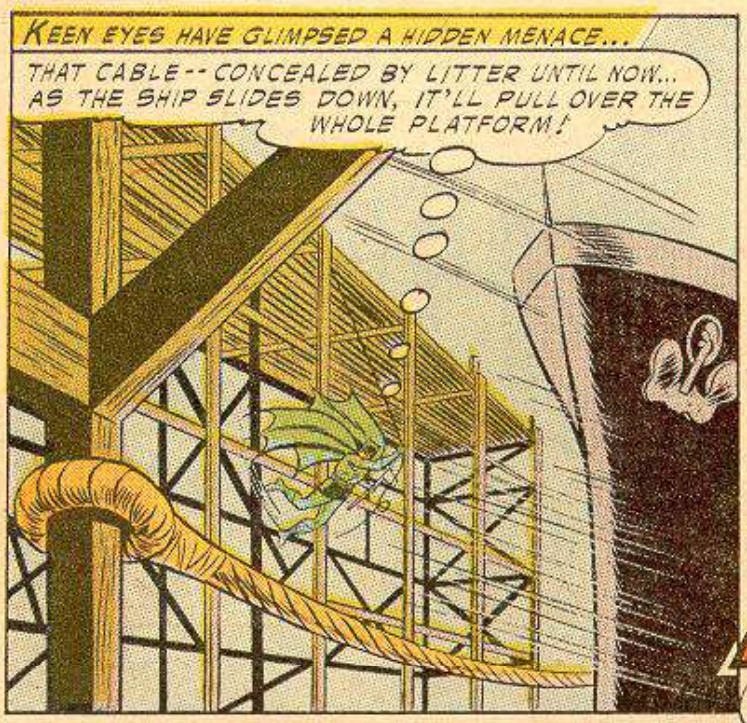

... A POTENTIAL DISASTER VANISHES!
BATMAN DROVE THE TRUCK INTO THE RIVER, TO DOUSE THE FIRE! IT CAN BE PULLED OUT SAFELY LATER!
WOW! HE WAITED TILL THE LAST MOMENT BEFORE HE JUMPED!
EXPLOSIVES

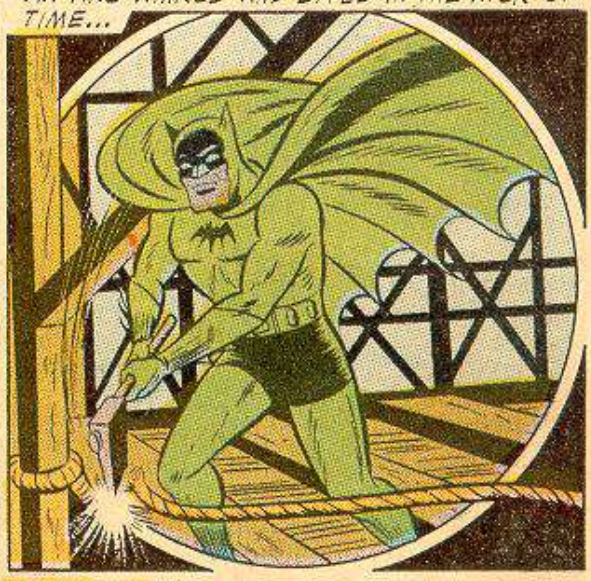
LATER, AS NEWSPAPERMEN THRONG AROUND THE "NEW" BATMAN...
BATMAN, CAN YOU TELL US WHY YOU SWITCHED TO A RED COSTUME, AND NOW TO A BLUE ONE?
YES, YOU'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING YET WITHOUT A REASON! WHY THESE COLORED COSTUMES?
IT COULD BE I'M JUST TIRED OF THE SAME-COLORED COSTUME, YOU KNOW! BUT I'M NOT GIVING MY REASONS, YET!
I'M CERTAIN THERE'S SOME BIG STORY BEHIND THESE COLORED COSTUMES--BUT I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT!
PRESENTLY, BACK IN THE BAT-CAVE...
I DIDN'T SEE THE CAMERA-THIEVES ANYWHERE ON THE SCENE!
YET, I'M SURE THEY WOULDN'T STEAL SUCH A CAMERA, EXCEPT TO PREPARE A BIG CRIME! WE'LL KEEP COVERING EVERY BIG EVENT THAT TV CREWS COVER!
AND AS THE DYNAMIC DUO VIGILANTLY WATCHES FOR CROOKS, GOTHAM CITY CONTINUES TO WONDER...
A BIG CROWD'S HERE TO GREET MARION MARLEY, THE FAMOUS MOVIE STAR!
AND HERE COME BATMAN AND ROBIN! WHAT KIND OF COSTUME DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S WEARING THIS TIME?
GOLD-COLORED COSTUME THIS TIME! IT'S A DAZZLER!
NO WONDER EVERYBODY'S WATCHING HIM, INSTEAD OF MARION MARLEY!
YOU--YOU WORE THAT COSTUME DELIBERATELY, SO EVERYONE WOULD LOOK AT YOU, NOT AT ME!
I'M SORRY, MISS MARLEY--I DIDN'T MEAN TO SPOIL YOUR WELCOME!

AND WHEN THE CROWD DISPERSES...
BATMAN WEARING THOSE COSTUMES JUST TO ATTRACT ATTENTION? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
NEITHER CAN I! HE MUST HAVE SOME MORE IMPORTANT PURPOSE!
YET, THAT VERY SAME DAY, AS THE PAIR SCOUTS A BIG JEWEL AND FASHION SHOW...
WE MERELY WANT TO PROTECT THE VALUABLE GEMS YOU'RE SHOWING HERE!
BUT EVERYONE IS NOW WATCHING YOUR BRILLIANT ORANGE COSTUME! PLEASE LEAVE!
WHEN THEY DEPART...
NONE OF THE THIEVES WAS PRESENT HERE EITHER, THOUGH THERE WERE TV CAMERA-MEN ALL OVER THE PLACE!
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP RIGHT ON WATCHING EVERY EVENT, TILL YOU SPOT THOSE ROBBERS!

AND AT THE NEXT EVENT, A CROWDED SHIP-LAUNCHING...
THERE COME BATMAN AND ROBIN, AND... WOW! LOOK AT THAT COSTUME!
WHY IS HE DOING IT? IS IT SOME KIND OF COLOR CODE?


IN HIS LATEST EYE-CATCHING GARB, BATMAN REACHES THE LAUNCHING PLATFORM JUST AS...
I CHRISTEN THEE "GIGANTIC"!
THE SHIP'S STARTING TO SLIDE DOWN THE WAYS!
THAT CABLE BELOW-- DANGER! HAVE TO ACT FAST...
THERE'S AN AXE A WORKMAN LEFT... I CAN STILL MAKE IT!
HEY! WHAT'S BATMAN UP TO--?


KEEN EYES HAVE GLIMPSED A HIDDEN MENACE...
THAT CABLE -- CONCEALED BY LITTER UNTIL NOW... AS THE SHIP SLIDES DOWN, IT'LL PULL OVER THE WHOLE PLATFORM!


AN AXE WHIRLS AND BITES IN THE NICK OF TIME...

THEN, AS A GRATEFUL CROWD SURROUNDS BATMAN...
YOUR PROMPT ACTION SAVED US A BAD ACCIDENT, BATMAN. WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?
WE'LL TRY TO FIND THAT OUT NEXT!

LATER...
AGAIN, I CHECKED EVERY PERSON HERE TODAY-- AND DIDN'T SEE ANY OF THE THIEVES WE'RE AFTER!
BUT THEY'D BEEN HERE-- AND HAD FIXED THAT HIDDEN CABLE TO GET US!

THEY MUST KNOW, FROM THE WAY WE WATCH EVERY EVENT COVERED BY TV CAMERA-MEN, THAT WE'RE AFTER THEM... SO THEY TRIED THIS SABOTAGE, TO PUT US OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE THEY STRIKE!
IT LOOKS THAT WAY--AND I DON'T LIKE IT!

YOU'RE PLANNING TO COVER THE BIG SHARPSHOOTING CONTEST IN GOTHAM STADIUM TOMORROW! SUPPOSE THEY STRIKE AT YOU THERE?
IT COULD BE DANGEROUS, ALL RIGHT-- BUT WE'VE GOT TO LOOK FOR THEM THERE, TOO, AND WE'LL TAKE PRECAUTIONS!

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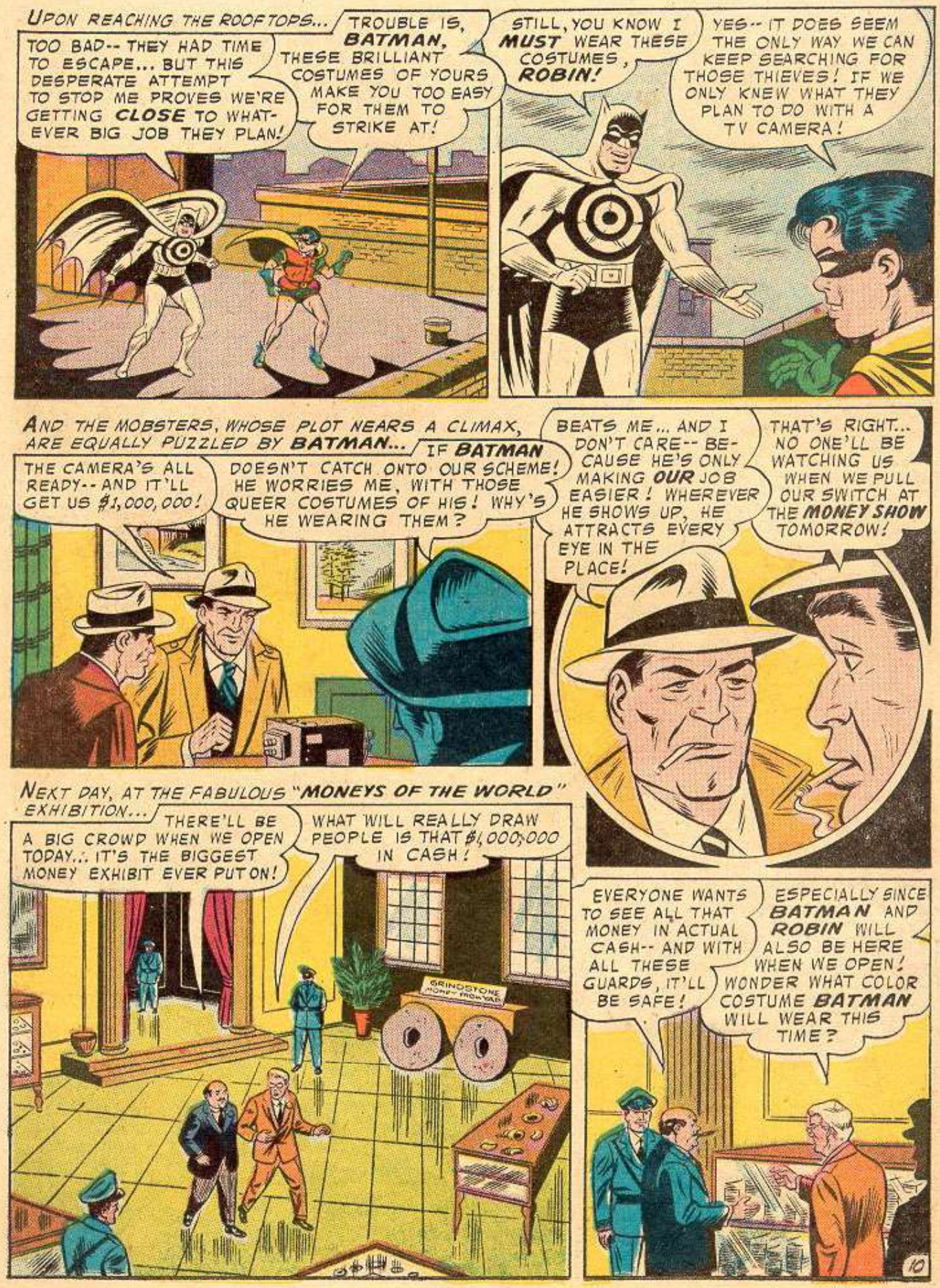
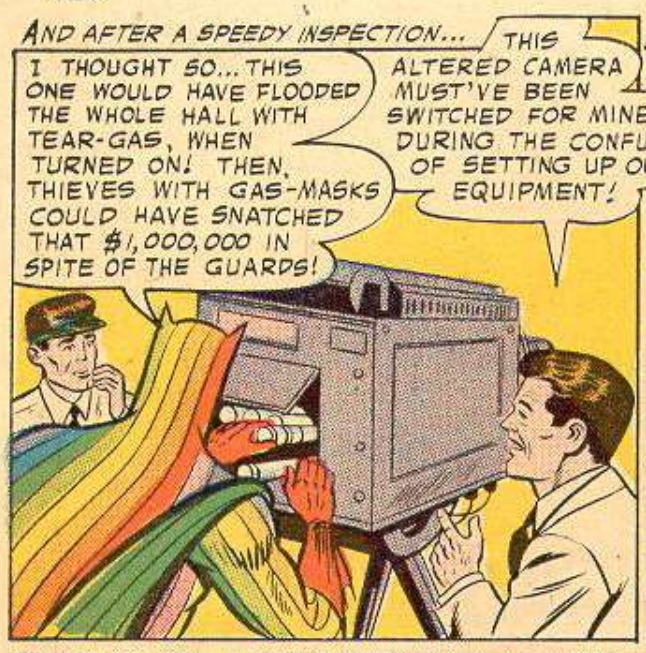

UPON REACHING THE ROOFTOPS...
TROUBLE IS, BATMAN, THESE BRILLIANT COSTUMES OF YOURS MAKE YOU TOO EASY FOR THEM TO STRIKE AT!
TOO BAD-- THEY HAD TIME TO ESCAPE... BUT THIS DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO STOP ME PROVES WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO WHATEVER BIG JOB THEY PLAN!
STILL, YOU KNOW I MUST WEAR THESE COSTUMES, ROBIN!
YES-- IT DOES SEEM THE ONLY WAY WE CAN KEEP SEARCHING FOR THOSE THIEVES! IF WE ONLY KNEW WHAT THEY PLAN TO DO WITH A TV CAMERA!
AND THE MOBSTERS, WHOSE PLOT NEARS A CLIMAX, ARE EQUALLY PUZZLED BY BATMAN...
IF BATMAN DOESN'T CATCH ONTO OUR SCHEME! HE WORRIES ME, WITH THOSE QUEER COSTUMES OF HIS! WHY'S HE WEARING THEM?
THE CAMERA'S ALL READY-- AND IT'LL GET US $1,000,000!
BEATS ME... AND I DON'T CARE-- BECAUSE HE'S ONLY MAKING OUR JOB EASIER! WHEREVER HE SHOWS UP, HE ATTRACTS EVERY EYE IN THE PLACE!
THAT'S RIGHT... NO ONE'LL BE WATCHING US WHEN WE PULL OUR SWITCH AT THE MONEY SHOW TOMORROW!
NEXT DAY, AT THE FABULOUS "MONEYS OF THE WORLD" EXHIBITION...
THERE'LL BE A BIG CROWD WHEN WE OPEN TODAY... IT'S THE BIGGEST MONEY EXHIBIT EVER PUT ON!
WHAT WILL REALLY DRAW PEOPLE IS THAT $1,000,000 IN CASH!
GRINDSTONE MONEY-PROOF YAD
EVERYONE WANTS TO SEE ALL THAT MONEY IN ACTUAL CASH-- AND WITH ALL THESE GUARDS, IT'LL BE SAFE!
ESPECIALLY SINCE BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL ALSO BE HERE WHEN WE OPEN! WONDER WHAT COLOR COSTUME BATMAN WILL WEAR THIS TIME?

TO THAT QUESTION, THERE'S MORE THAN ONE ANSWER!...
A RAINBOW COSTUME! I GIVE UP-- I CAN'T SEE WHY ON EARTH HE'D WEAR SUCH THINGS!
NOBODY CAN SEE WHY... BUT WHO CARES, AS LONG AS HE GUARDS OUR EXHIBIT?
A LITTLE LATER, AS TV NEWSCASTERS ARRIVE FOR THE OPENING...
EVERY ONE OF THOSE CAMERAMEN IS ACCREDITED... NO SIGN OF THE THIEVES HERE!
WE'LL GO INSIDE-- KEEP WATCHING, AS THE CROWDS ENTER!
AND FINALLY, ROBIN'S VIGILANCE PAYS OFF...
BATMAN, THERE'S ONE OF THEM! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT-- HE'S ONE OF THE THIEVES WHO STOLE THE CAMERA!
HE DOESN'T HAVE THE CAMERA NOW, BUT I'LL GRAB HIM ANYHOW!
IN AN INSTANT, BATMAN BECOMES A RAINBOW OF DAZZLING ACTION...
WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT IN YOUR POCKET, PAL, THAT'S WHERE IT STAYS!
I... OOF!
BUT SEARCH OF A CAPTURED THIEF DISCLOSES...
A GAS-MASK! IS THAT ALL HE WAS REACHING FOR?
GREAT SCOTT! DON'T YOU SEE, ROBIN?...THAT'S THE ANSWER TO THE WHOLE MYSTERY!
DON'T TURN ON YOUR CAMERAS! ONE OF THEM IS BOOBY-TRAPPED!
WVE

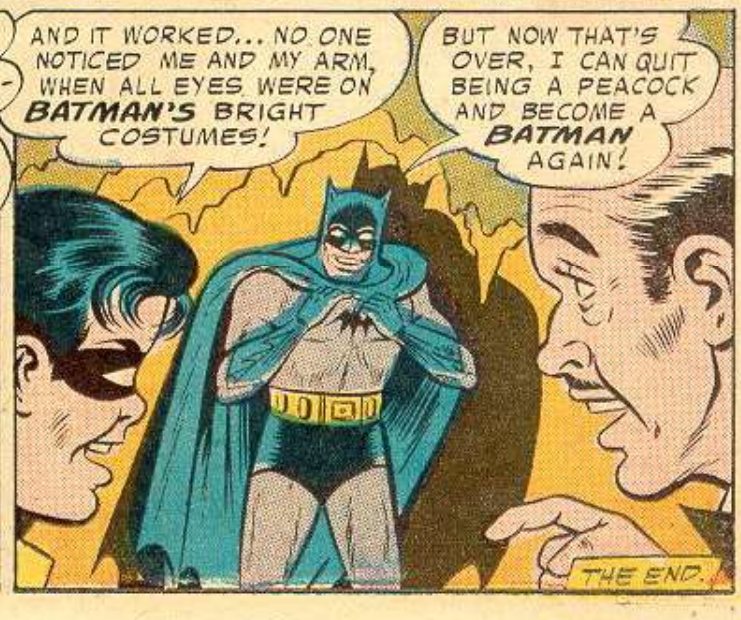

AND AFTER A SPEEDY INSPECTION...
I THOUGHT SO... THIS ONE WOULD HAVE FLOODED THE WHOLE HALL WITH TEAR-GAS, WHEN TURNED ON! THEN, THIEVES WITH GAS-MASKS COULD HAVE SNATCHED THAT $1,000,000 IN SPITE OF THE GUARDS!
THIS ALTERED CAMERA MUST'VE BEEN SWITCHED FOR MINE, DURING THE CONFUSION OF SETTING UP OUR EQUIPMENT!

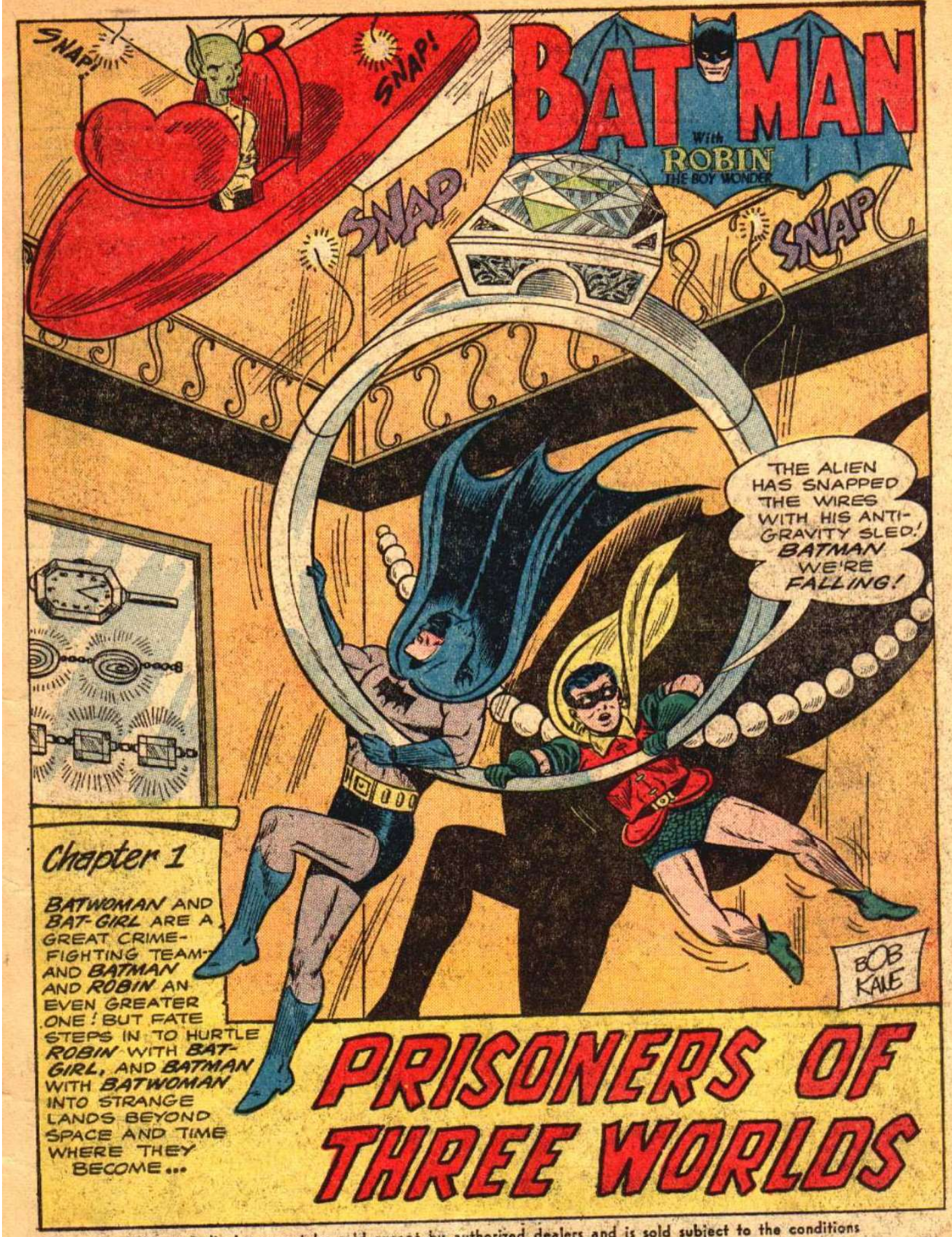
NEXT INSTANT...
THERE GO THE OTHER TWO CROOKS, BATMAN! I'VE GOT THIS ONE!
THEY'LL FIND NO POT OF GOLD AT THE END OF THIS RAIN-BOW... ONLY PRISON!

AND SO, AFTER POLICE HAVE TAKEN THE PRISONERS AWAY...
BATMAN, YOUR WATCHFULNESS PREVENTED A CRIME AGAIN! BUT CAN YOU TELL US, NOW, WHY YOU'VE BEEN WEARING ALL THESE COLORED COSTUMES?
NO, I CAN'T! THIS IS THE LAST ONE I'LL WEAR, BUT WHY I DID IT MUST REMAIN A SECRET!

LATER, AS BRUCE WAYNE'S LOYAL BUTLER, ALFRED, GREETS THE DUO...
I'M GLAD YOU CAUGHT THE RASCALS, SIR-- BUT WHY DID YOU HAVE TO WEAR SUCH GAUDY GARMENTS?
YOU SEE, ALFRED, ROBIN HAD TO HELP ME FIND THOSE THIEVES, BECAUSE ONLY HE HAD SEEN THEIR FACES AND COULD IDENTIFY THEM!

BUT IF ANYONE NOTICED THAT AS ROBIN, I COULDN'T USE MY LEFT ARM, THEY MIGHT REMEMBER THE PUBLICITY ABOUT DICK GRAYSON'S INJURY-- AND SUSPECT OUR IDENTITY!
THAT'S WHY I WORE SUCH COLORFUL, EYE-CATCHING COSTUMES-- SO EVERYONE WOULD LOOK AT ME, AND NOT AT ROBIN!


AND IT WORKED... NO ONE NOTICED ME AND MY ARM, WHEN ALL EYES WERE ON BATMAN'S BRIGHT COSTUMES!
BUT NOW THAT'S OVER, I CAN QUIT BEING A PEACOCK AND BECOME A BATMAN AGAIN!
THE END.



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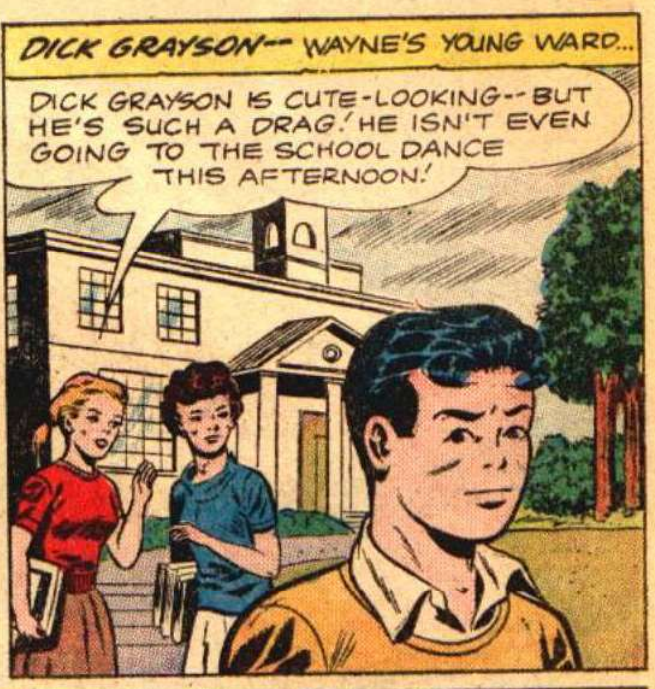
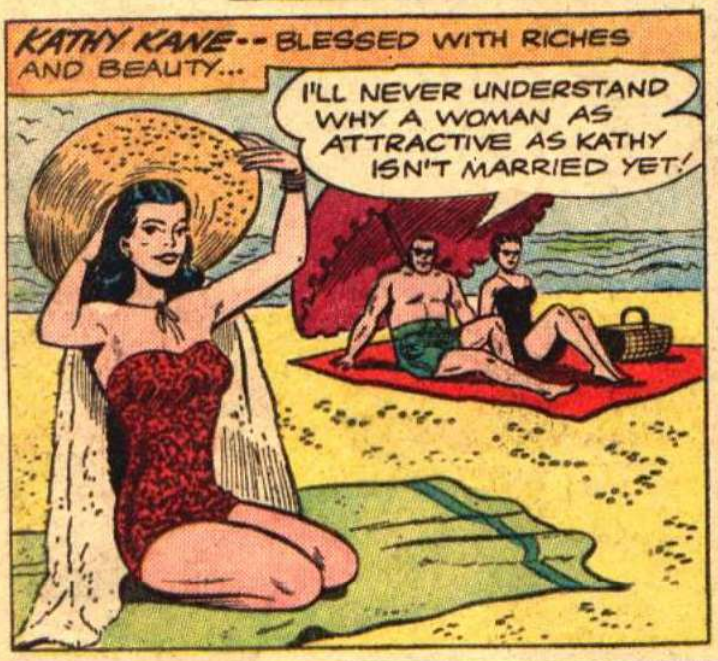
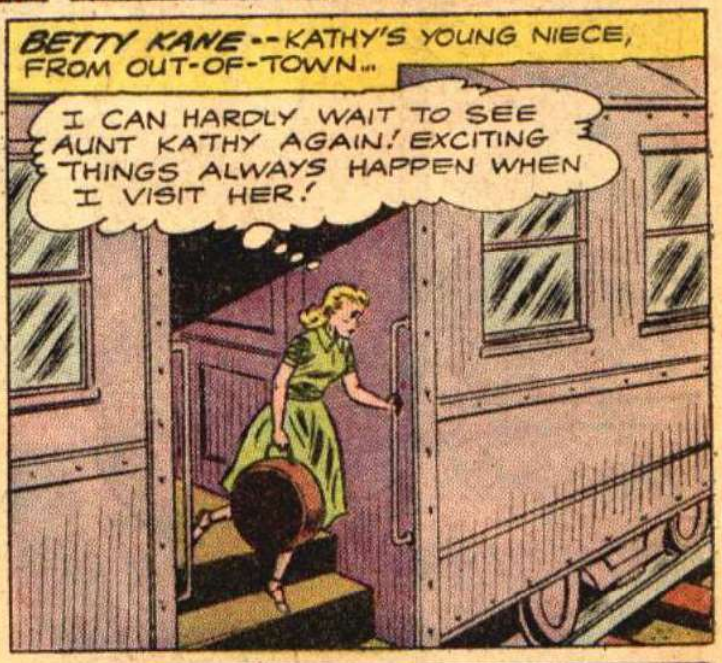
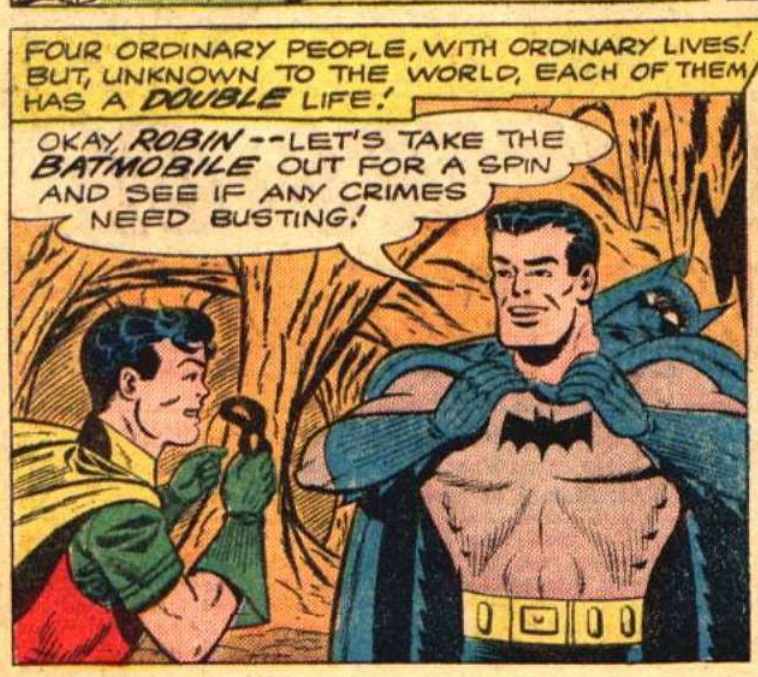
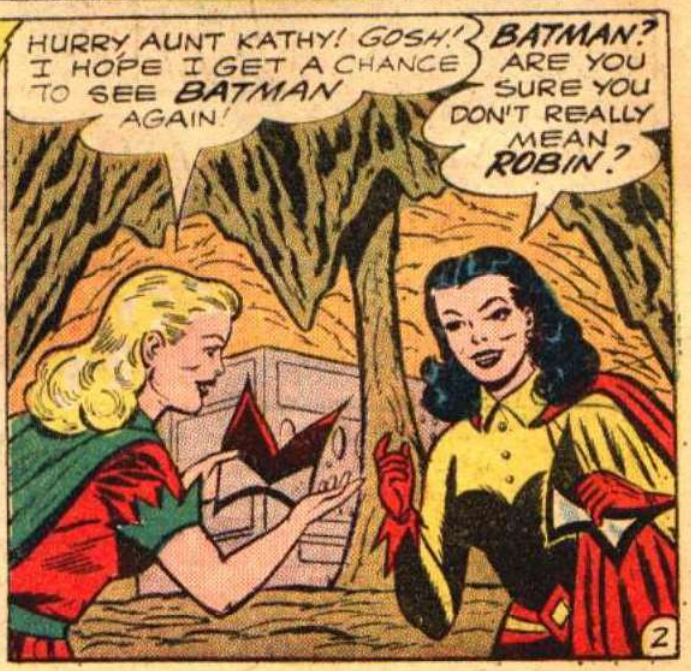
IN GOTHAM CITY, A DEADLY DRAMA IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE-- AND UNKNOWINGLY, FOUR APPARENTLY ORDINARY PEOPLE WILL BE THRUST INTO THE LEADING ROLES...







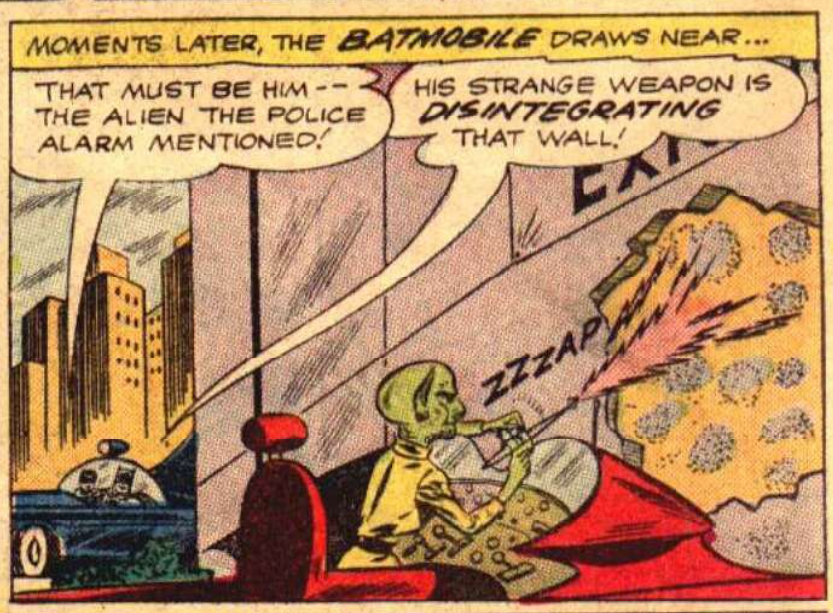




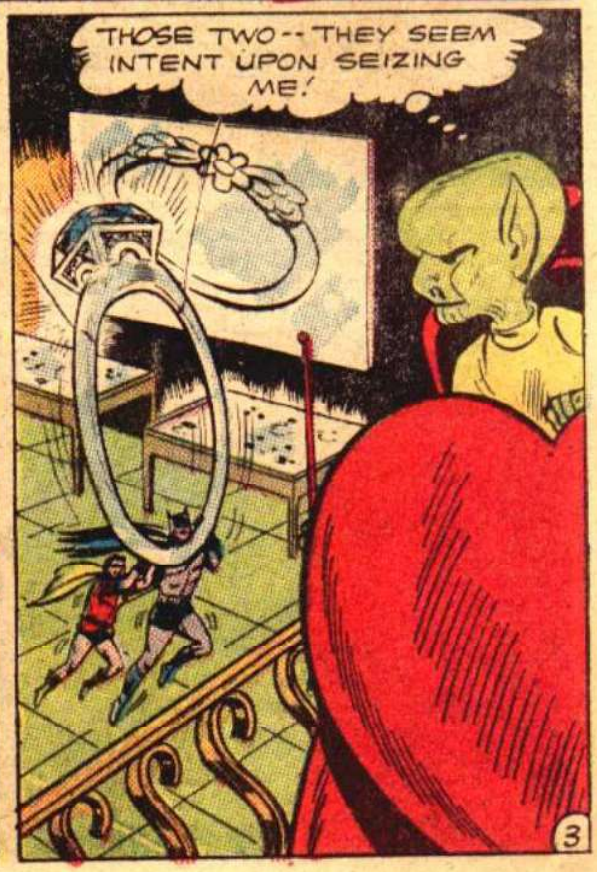
FOUR NOT-SO-ORDINARY PEOPLE--BUT THERE IS YET ANOTHER, WHOM FATE HAS SELECTED TO CATAPULT THEM INTO FANTASTIC ADVENTURE!
NOW, FOR MY MISSION! BUT FIRST, I MUST STORE MY TELEPORTER SOMEWHERE! AH! THAT DESERTED OLD BUILDING WILL DO FINE -- THEN I'LL START MY SEARCH FOR VAUX!

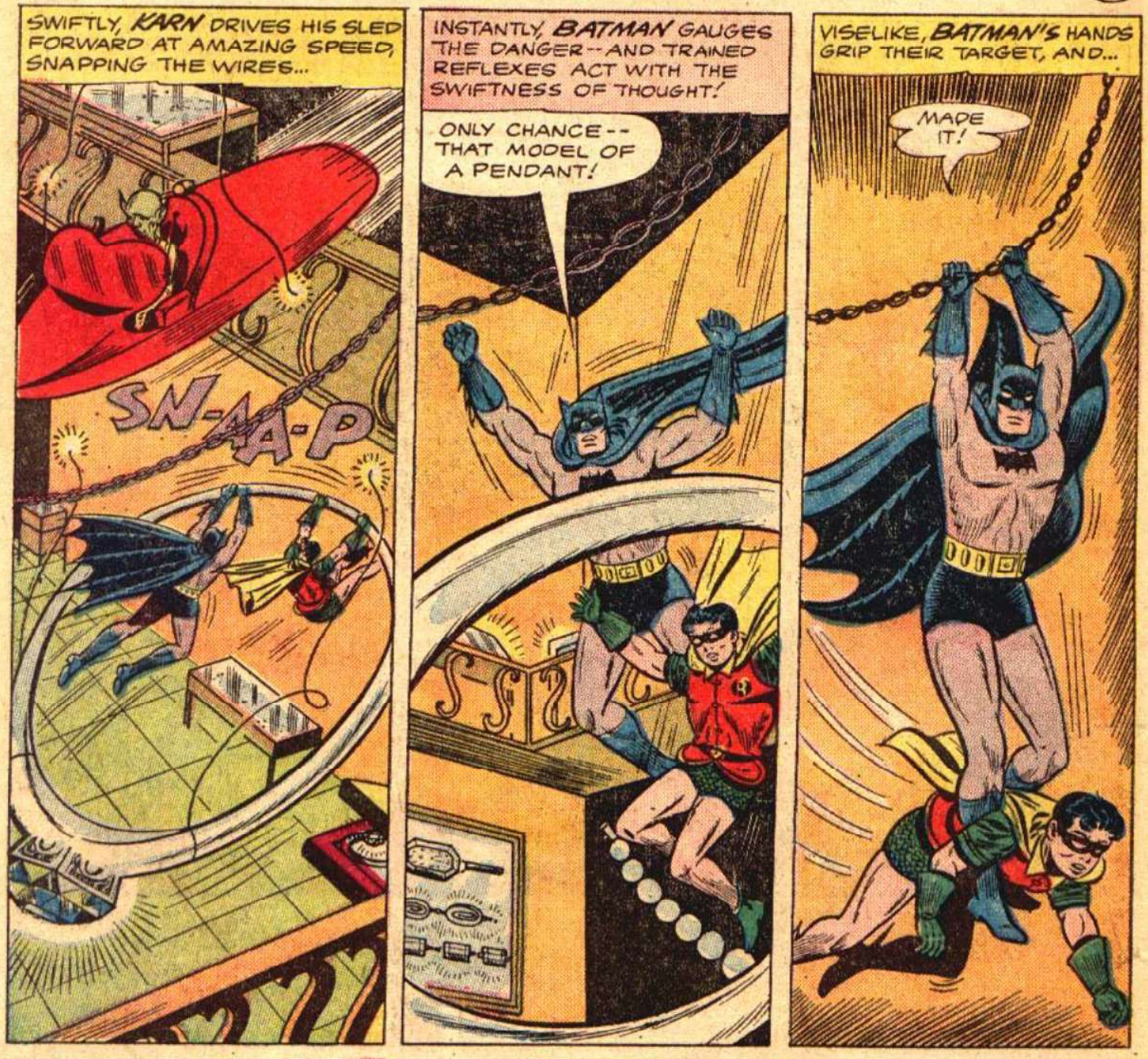
SHORTLY, AS A U.S. MAIL HELICOPTER IS ON ITS WAY TOWARD A MAIL STATION...
GREAT GUNS! SOME KIND OF ALIEN BEING! I'D BETTER SEE WHERE HE'S HEADING -- AND RADIO THE POLICE IN CASE HE INTENDS TO MAKE TROUBLE!
U.S. MAIL

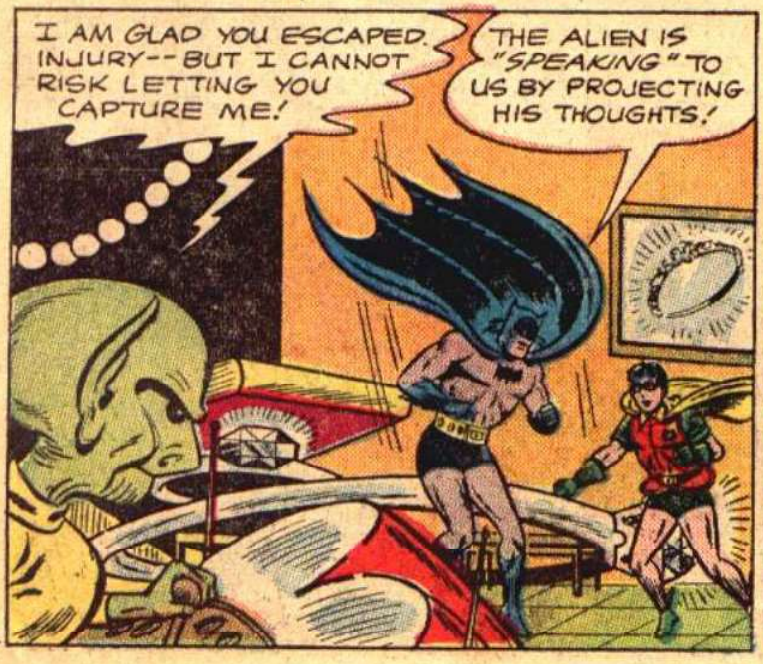
AS THE ALIEN NEARS THE ROAD...
THE VAUX-DETECTOR IS CLICKING--INDICATING A GOOD QUANTITY OF VAUX IN THAT BUILDING AHEAD!
JEWELRY DESIGN EXPOSITION
CLICK CLICK!


MOMENTS LATER, THE BATMOBILE DRAWS NEAR...
THAT MUST BE HIM -- THE ALIEN THE POLICE ALARM MENTIONED!
HIS STRANGE WEAPON IS DISINTEGRATING THAT WALL!
ZZZAP

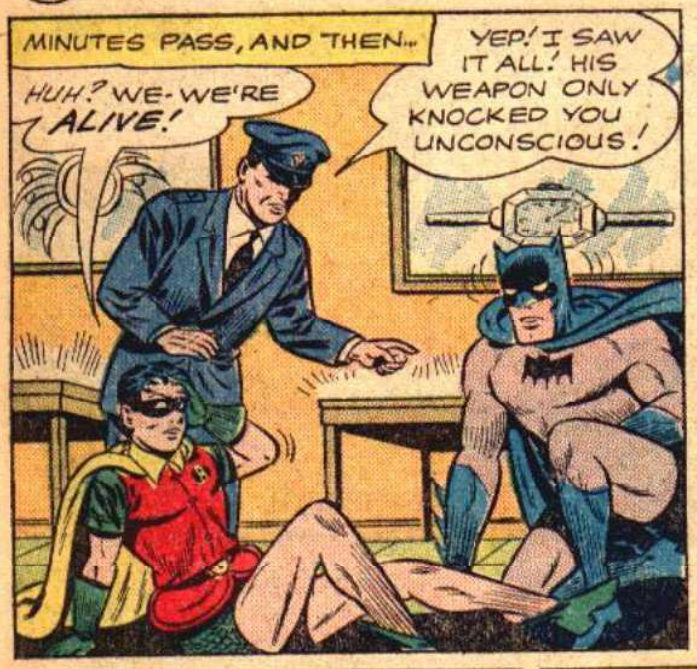
AS THE ALIEN'S SLED ZOOMS INTO THE BUILDING, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS ARE CLOSE BEHIND...
HE'S HEADING FOR THE BALCONY! WE'VE GOT TO GET UP THERE FAST, ROBIN! THAT REPLICA OF A DIAMOND RING WILL TAKE US THERE!


THOSE TWO -- THEY SEEM INTENT UPON SEIZING ME!

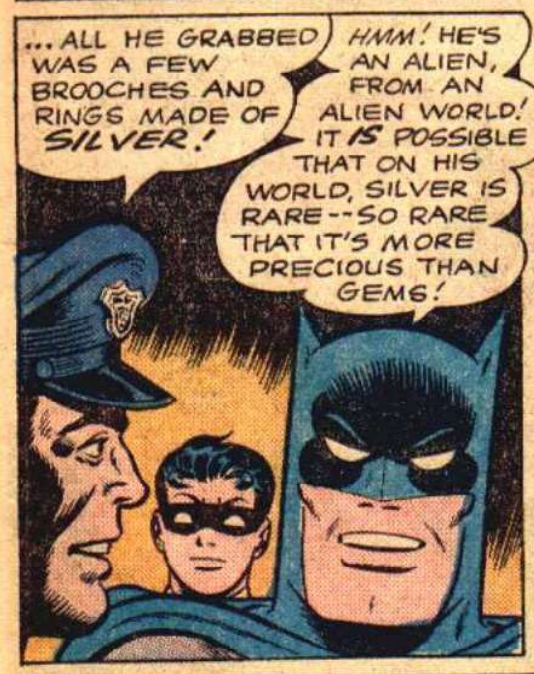

SWIFTLY, KARN DRIVES HIS SLED FORWARD AT AMAZING SPEED, SNAPPING THE WIRES...
SN-AA-P
INSTANTLY, BATMAN GAUGES THE DANGER--AND TRAINED REFLEXES ACT WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF THOUGHT!
ONLY CHANCE--THAT MODEL OF A PENDANT!
VISELIKE, BATMAN'S HANDS GRIP THEIR TARGET, AND...
MADE IT!

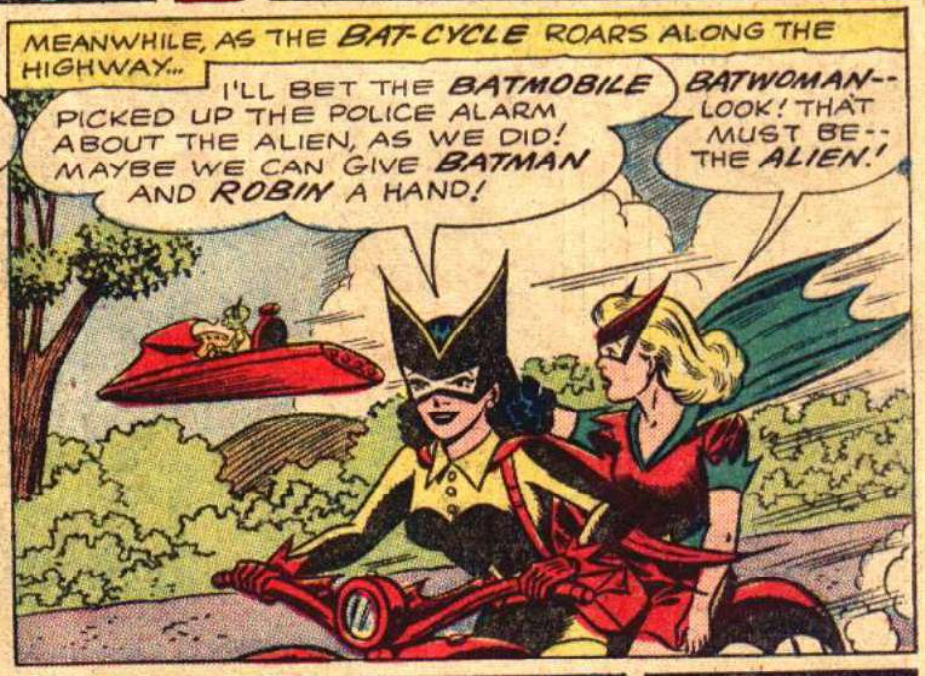

I AM GLAD YOU ESCAPED INJURY--BUT I CANNOT RISK LETTING YOU CAPTURE ME!
THE ALIEN IS "SPEAKING" TO US BY PROJECTING HIS THOUGHTS!

I MUST STOP YOU FROM INTERFERING WITH MY MISSION!
THE WEAPON THAT DISINTEGRATED THE WALL--FIRING AT US! UHH--UHH!
IS THIS TO BE THE END OF BATMAN AND ROBIN?


MINUTES PASS, AND THEN...
HUH? WE-WE'RE ALIVE!
YEP! I SAW IT ALL! HIS WEAPON ONLY KNOCKED YOU UNCONSCIOUS!

THEN HE DIDN'T TRY TO DISINTEGRATE US! HE CAN VARY THE POWER OF HIS WEAPON! THE ALIEN IS A CROOK--BUT HE'S NO KILLER!
YEAH, BUT HE'S NOT MUCH OF A CROOK--BECAUSE HE DIDN'T TOUCH ANY DIAMONDS...


...ALL HE GRABBED WAS A FEW BROOCHES AND RINGS MADE OF SILVER!
HMM! HE'S AN ALIEN, FROM AN ALIEN WORLD! IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ON HIS WORLD, SILVER IS RARE--SO RARE THAT IT'S MORE PRECIOUS THAN GEMS!


MEANWHILE, AS THE BAT-CYCLE ROARS ALONG THE HIGHWAY...
I'LL BET THE BATMOBILE PICKED UP THE POLICE ALARM ABOUT THE ALIEN, AS WE DID! MAYBE WE CAN GIVE BATMAN AND ROBIN A HAND!
BATWOMAN--LOOK! THAT MUST BE--THE ALIEN!

AT THAT MOMENT, BATMAN USES HIS RADIO TO CUT IN ON THE POLICE RADIO BAND...
CALLING ALL CARS! THIS IS BATMAN! THE ALIEN HAS ESCAPED CAPTURE!

...WATCH ALL ROADS AND KEEP ME POSTED!

CALLING BATMAN! THIS IS BATWOMAN! BAT-GIRL IS WITH ME! WE JUST SIGHTED THE ALIEN...

...RIDING UP SIMMONS LANE!

SHORTLY, AFTER THE TWO TEAMS OF CRIME-FIGHTERS JOIN FORCES...

SIMMONS LANE LEADS TO THE BIG ACE FILM COMPANY PLANT! THEY USE A LOT OF SILVER THERE!

RIGHT! THAT COMPANY MANUFACTURES TONS OF PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM -- AND FILM EMULSION CONTAINS SILVER CHLORIDE OR SILVER BROMIDE!

AS GUARDS ARE ABOUT TO WHEEL INGOTS OF SILVER INTO THE FILM COMPANY'S NOVEL BUILDING...

MY VAUX-DETECTOR HAS LED ME TO A GREAT QUANTITY OF VAUX THIS TIME!

ACE FILM COMPANY

CLICK-CLICK-CLICK

THE ONES WHO CALLED EACH OTHER BATMAN AND ROBIN! AND WITH THEM ARE TWO MASKED FEMALES! I MUST ACT QUICKLY!

I CAN'T STEER!

GREAT SCOTT! NOW HIS WEIRD GUN IS PUSHING THE BAT-CYCLE OFF-COURSE! IT'S GOING TO CRASH RIGHT INTO US!

CRACKLE

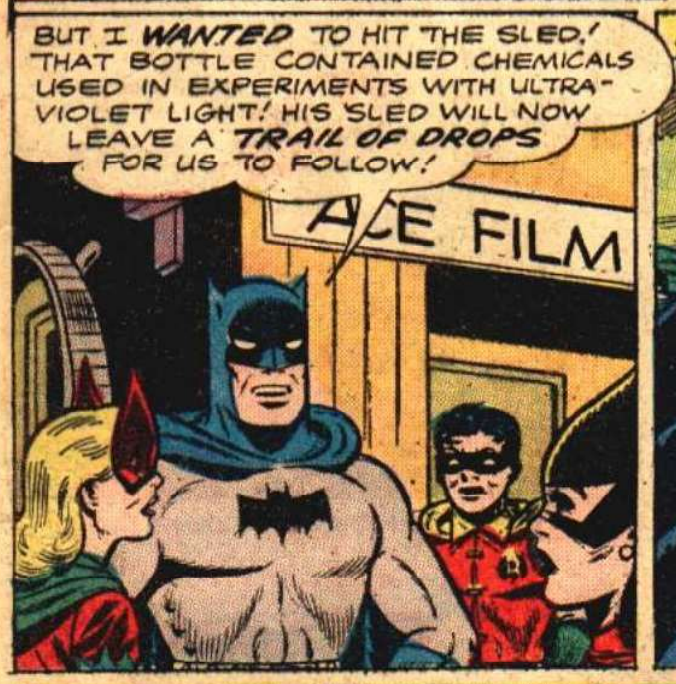
WITH LIGHTNING-LIKE REFLEXES, BATMAN STEPS ON THE GAS, AND THEN YANKS HARD AT THE WHEEL...

WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!

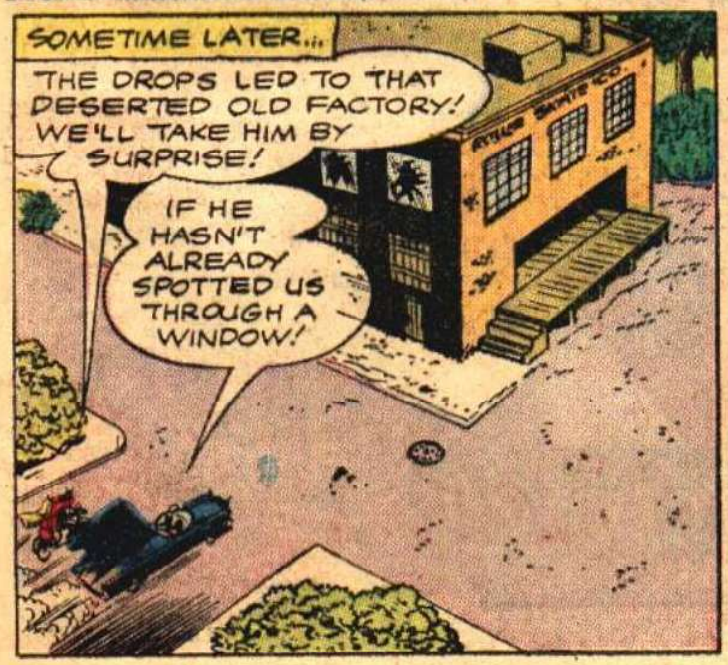
SCREECH

THE ALIEN'S GETTING AWAY AGAIN!
WELL, MAYBE THIS WILL HELP US CATCH UP TO HIM AGAIN!
ULTRA VIOLET

TAKING AIM, BATMAN HEAVES THE BOTTLE AT THE SWIFT TARGET...
FOOLISH EARTHLING! YOU MISSED ME AND HIT MY ANTI-GRAVITY SLED INSTEAD!
TOO BAD, BATMAN!


BUT I WANTED TO HIT THE SLED! THAT BOTTLE CONTAINED CHEMICALS USED IN EXPERIMENTS WITH ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT! HIS SLED WILL NOW LEAVE A TRAIL OF DROPS FOR US TO FOLLOW!
ACE FILM

SHORTLY...
THESE SPECIAL FILTER GOGGLES ENABLE ME TO SPOT THOSE DROPS!


SOMETIME LATER...
THE DROPS LED TO THAT DESERTED OLD FACTORY! WE'LL TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE!
IF HE HASN'T ALREADY SPOTTED US THROUGH A WINDOW!

BATMAN'S WORRY PROVES CORRECT, AS...
YOUR INTERFERENCE CAN JEOPARDIZE MY MISSION-- AND I MUST FIND A STOCK-PILE OF VAUX! NOW I AM FORCED TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION!
GREAT SCOTT! HE'S BROUGHT A FANTASTIC MACHINE WITH HIM! GET BACK!

FEARING FOR BATWOMAN AND BAT-GIRL, BATMAN AND ROBIN LEAP FORWARD, HOPING TO SHIELD THEM FROM THE MACHINE'S SWEEPING RADIANCE!

BAT-GIRL! LOOK OUT!

BATWOMAN! GET DOWN!

SIMULTANEOUSLY, TWO AMAZING EVENTS OCCUR!

BAT-GIRL AND ROBIN -- DISINTEGRATING INTO NOTHINGNESS! WE'LL PROBABLY GO NEXT! MY BODY IS TINGLING -- GROWING WEAK!

ME, TOO! I FEEL AS IF EVERY ATOM IN ME IS STRETCHING -- BREAKING FREE OF MY BODY!

HAS IT HAPPENED AT LAST? HAS DEATH COME TO THESE BRAVE CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE?

CONTINUED IN CHAPTER 2

Follow the adventures of BATMAN and ROBIN IN THESE LATEST ISSUES of Detective COMICS

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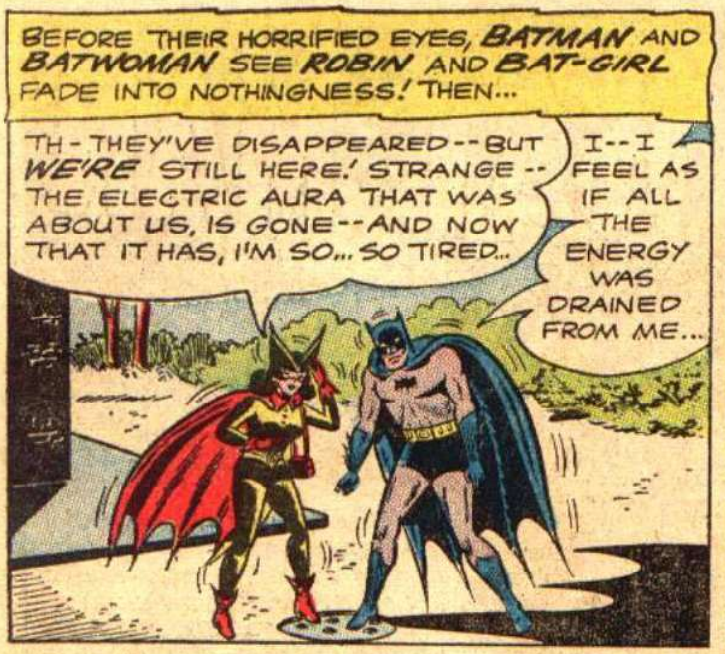
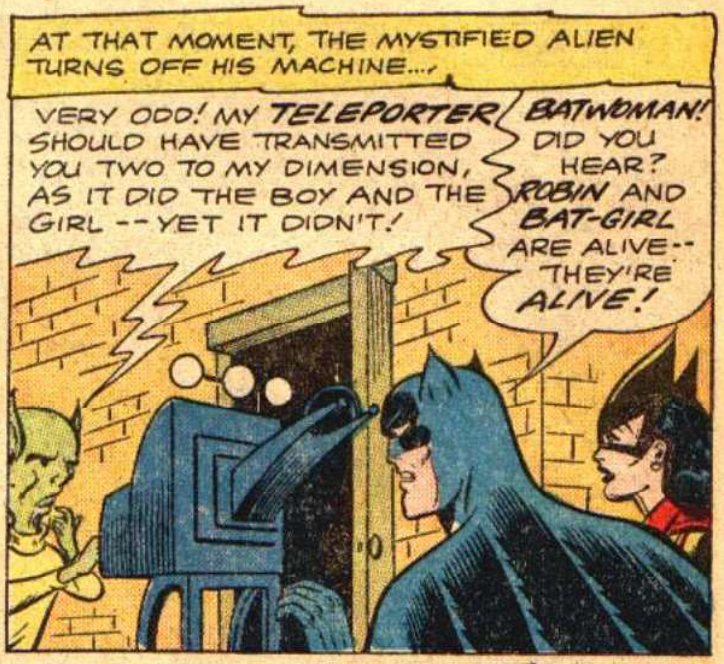
SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

Chapter 2

AS BAT-GIRL AND ROBIN FADE INTO NOTHINGNESS, THEIR FATE REMAINS UNKNOWN--BUT WHAT OF BATMAN AND BATWOMAN? THEY HAVE BECOME VICTIMS OF A FREAK ACCIDENT--FOR THEY HAVE HURTLED INTO SPACE, YET REMAIN ON EARTH AT THE SAME TIME! INCREDIBLE, BUT TRUE--AS YOU WILL SEE WHEN BATMAN AND BATWOMAN ARE MENACED BY...

DEATH FROM BEYOND


BEFORE THEIR HORRIFIED EYES, BATMAN AND BATWOMAN SEE ROBIN AND BAT-GIRL FADE INTO NOTHINGNESS! THEN...
TH-THEY'VE DISAPPEARED--BUT WE'RE STILL HERE! STRANGE--THE ELECTRIC AURA THAT WAS ABOUT US, IS GONE--AND NOW THAT IT HAS, I'M SO... SO TIRED...
I--I FEEL AS IF ALL THE ENERGY WAS DRAINED FROM ME...

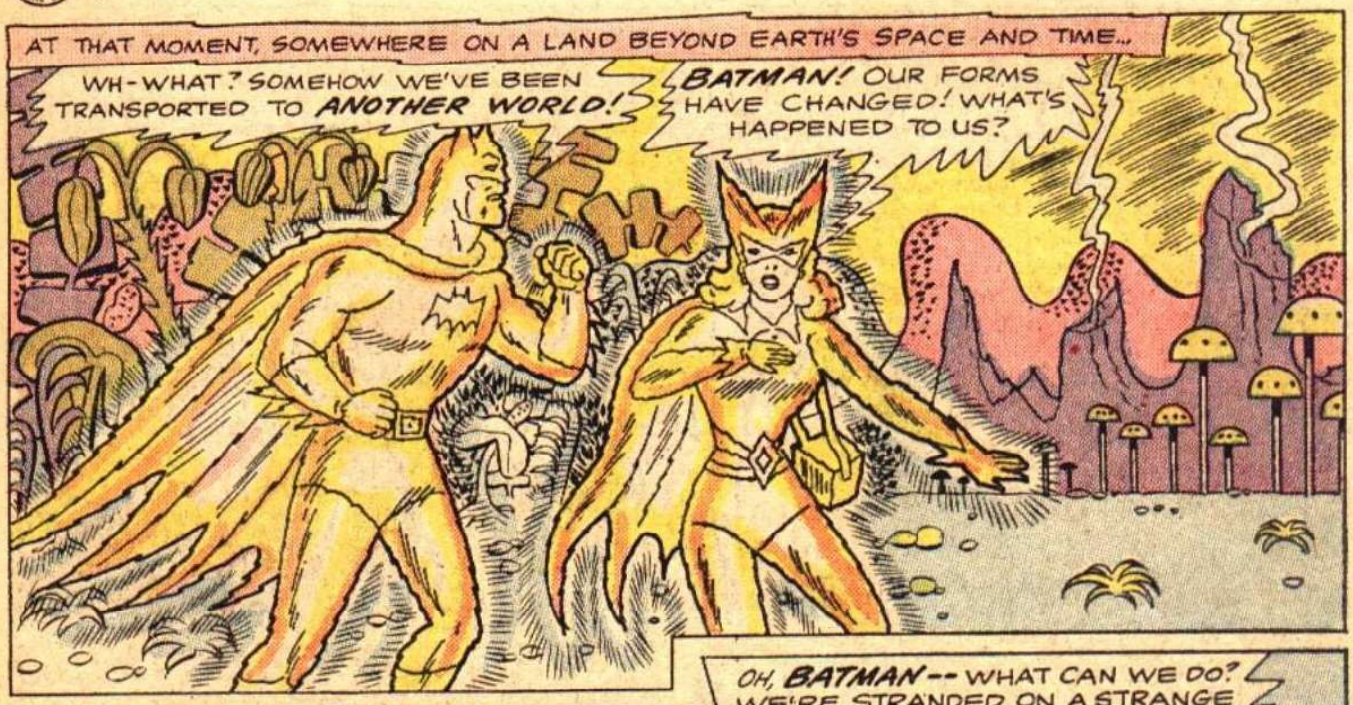

AT THAT MOMENT, THE MYSTIFIED ALIEN TURNS OFF HIS MACHINE...
VERY ODD! MY TELEPORTER SHOULD HAVE TRANSMITTED YOU TWO TO MY DIMENSION, AS IT DID THE BOY AND THE GIRL--YET IT DIDN'T!
BATWOMAN! DID YOU HEAR? ROBIN AND BAT-GIRL ARE ALIVE--THEY'RE ALIVE!

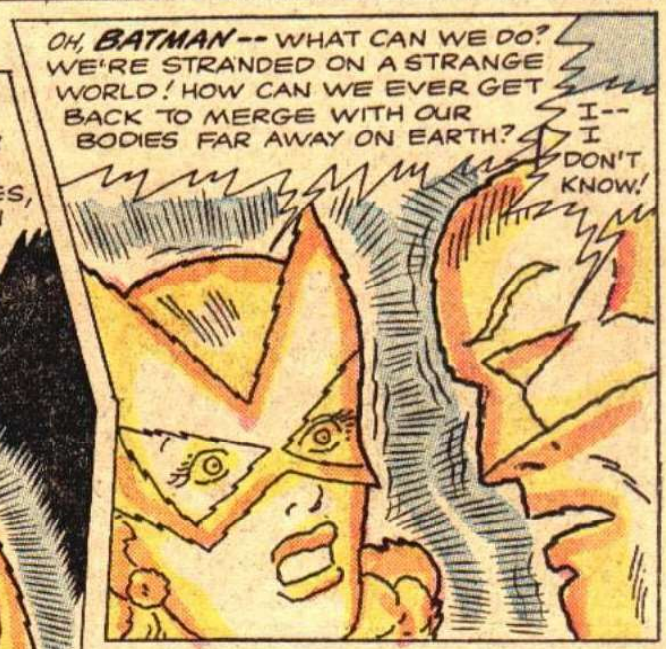
TRYING AGAIN, KARN TURNS ON THE POWER OF HIS DIMENSION-TELEPORTER, BUT...
FOR SOME REASON, IT FAILS TO TRANSMIT YOU TWO! BUT I CAN'T WASTE TIME PUZZLING IT OUT NOW! I HAVE A MISSION TO COMPLETE!

IN THEIR STRANGELY WEAKENED CONDITION, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS ARE UNABLE TO RESIST KARN...
JUST TO MAKE CERTAIN YOU CANNOT ESCAPE AND INTERFERE AGAIN, I'LL LOCK YOU IN A ROOM--WHILE I RAID YOUR WORLD FOR MORE VAUX!

SHORTLY...
I HAVE THE STRANGEST SENSATION! I FEEL INCOMPLETE--AS IF PART OF ME IS MISSING!

SOMEHOW I--I SENSE I'VE SPLIT INTO TWO BEINGS!
YES! AND SOMEHOW I KNOW THAT OUR OTHER SELVES ARE ELSEWHERE--ON SOME STRANGE WORLD!





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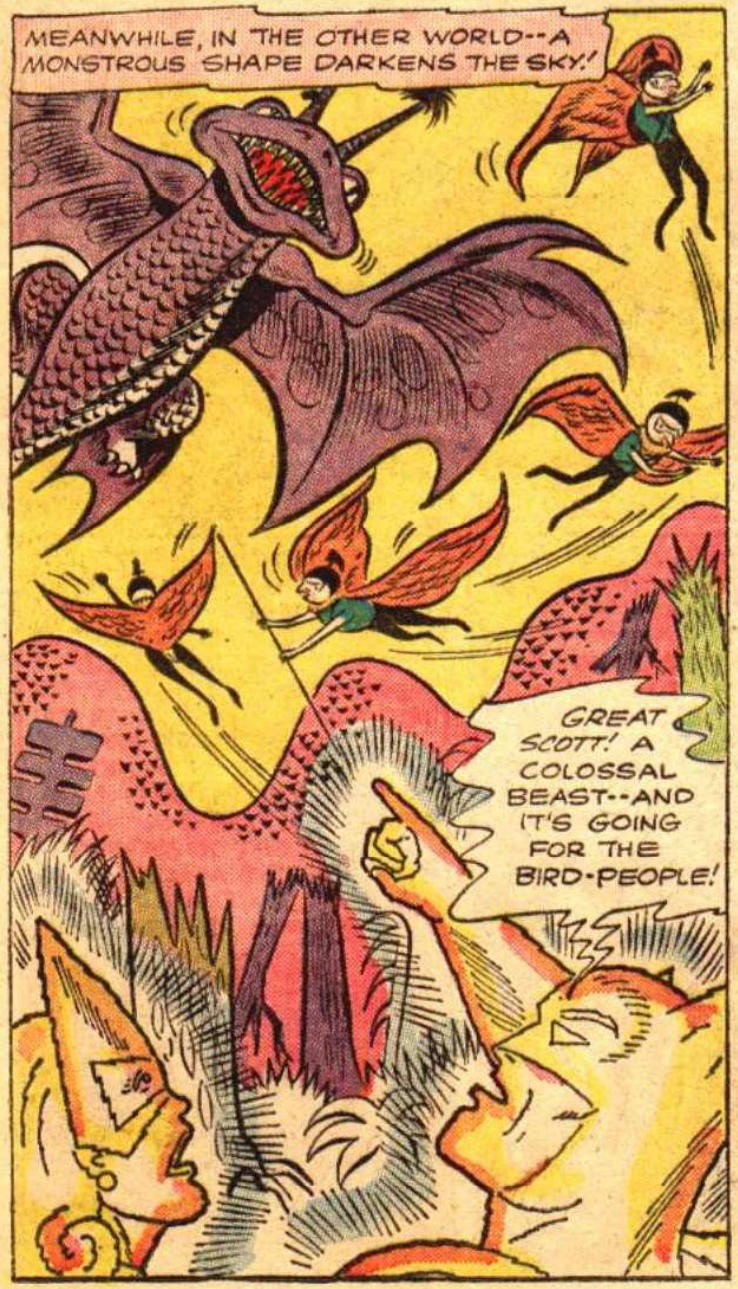
MEANWHILE, HOPING TO FIND HELP, THE ENERGY FORMS OF BATMAN AND BATWOMAN MOVE TOWARD THE ALIEN CITY, BUT...
BATMAN, THE BUILDINGS ARE SHATTERING!
WE'RE THE CAUSE! OUR ENERGY-FORMS ARE EMITTING POWERFUL PULSES OF FORCE THAT DESTROY ANYTHING WITHIN RANGE!
HORRIFIED BY THE CHAOS THEY HAVE UNWITTINGLY CAUSED, THE TWO ENERGY-BEINGS HASTILY RETREAT...
THE WINGED PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD! THEY THINK WE'RE INVADERS!
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND! PLEASE, WE MEAN NO HARM! WE COULDN'T HELP WHAT HAPPENED!
IT'S NO USE! THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND US!
SOLDIERS COMING! LET'S GET AWAY BEFORE WE'RE FORCED INTO A FIGHT AND OUR ENERGY BEAMS HURT THEM!
SEEKING REFUGE, BATMAN AND BATWOMAN PLUNGE INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE NEARBY WOODS, BUT...
GOOD HEAVENS! OUR PULSES OF FORCE ARE SMASHING DOWN EVERYTHING AROUND US!
NO USE! WE CAN'T HIDE! INSTEAD, WE'VE ACTUALLY LEFT A TRAIL FOR THEM TO SIGHT FROM ABOVE!

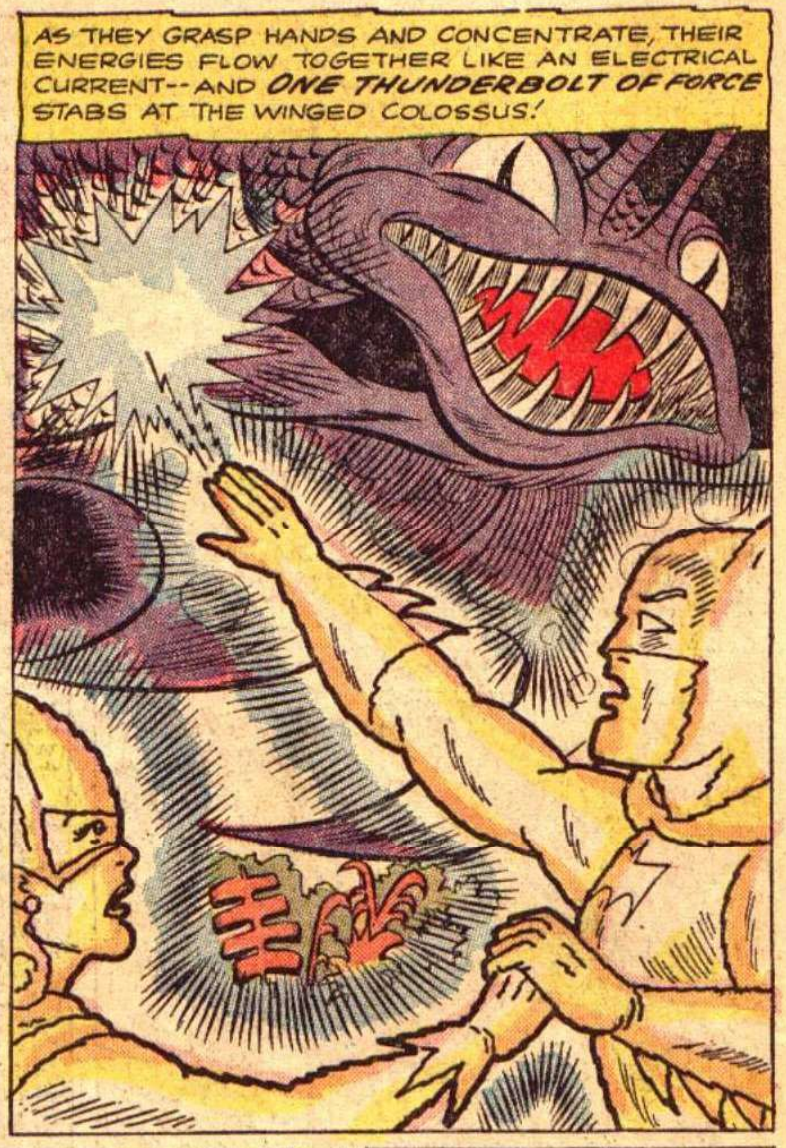
WARILY, THE WINGED PEOPLE KEEP BEYOND RANGE OF THE FORCE-PULSES--AND LAUNCH AN AERIAL ATTACK!
WE'RE SAFE ENOUGH! OUR AURAS OF FORCE ARE SHATTERING THEIR SPEARS!
OH, WHY CAN'T THEY UNDERSTAND THAT ALL WE WANT TO DO IS FIND A WAY BACK TO OUR OWN BODIES!

AND ON EARTH...
THE TELEPORTER! PERHAPS ITS POWER CAN PULL OUR ENERGY-SELVES BACK INTO OUR BODIES!
YOU'RE FORGETTING--WHEN THE ALIEN TURNED ITS POWER ON US A SECOND TIME, NOTHING HAPPENED! FIRST, WE MUST FIGURE OUT WHY IT WORKED ONLY ON ROBIN AND BAT-GIRL--AND NOT ON US!


MEANWHILE, IN THE OTHER WORLD--A MONSTROUS SHAPE DARKENS THE SKY!
GREAT SCOTT! A COLOSSAL BEAST--AND IT'S GOING FOR THE BIRD-PEOPLE!

THEIR SPEARS ONLY BOUNCE OFF THAT BEAST'S HIDE! BATMAN, SOMEHOW WE'VE GOT TO HELP THOSE BRAVE BEINGS!
MAYBE IF WE CONCENTRATE OUR THOUGHTS, WE CAN CONTROL OUR ENERGIES--AND FOCUS AT THAT BEAST!

THE STRATEGY WORKS--AND TWO LENGTHENING BEAMS OF FORCE STRIKE THEIR TARGET!
RAAAAAA!



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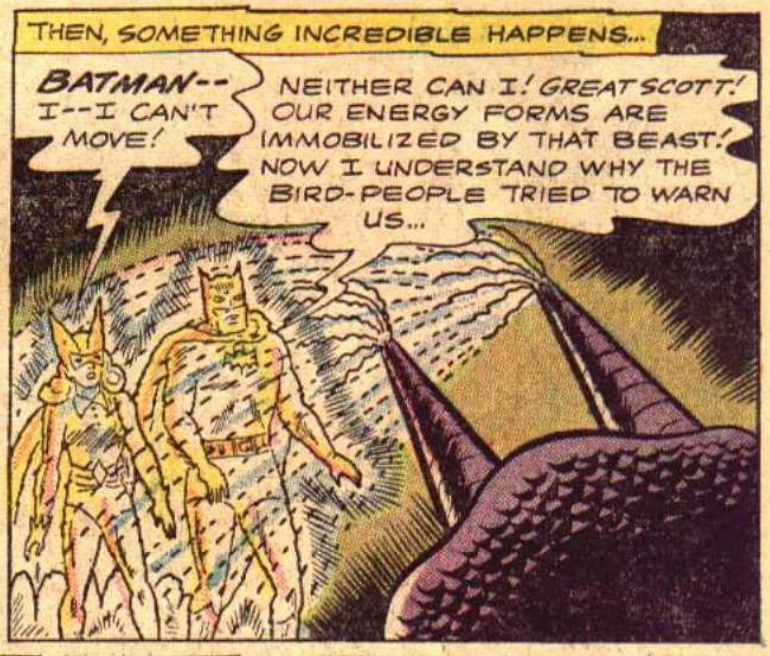
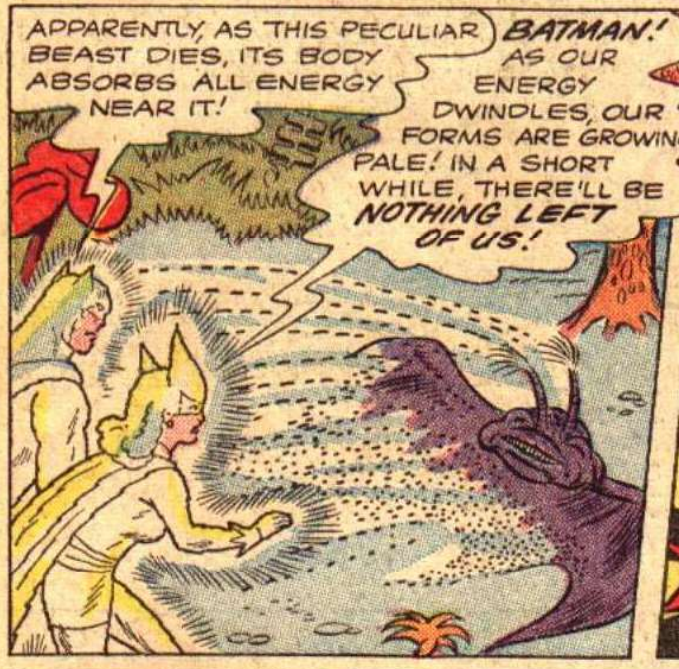
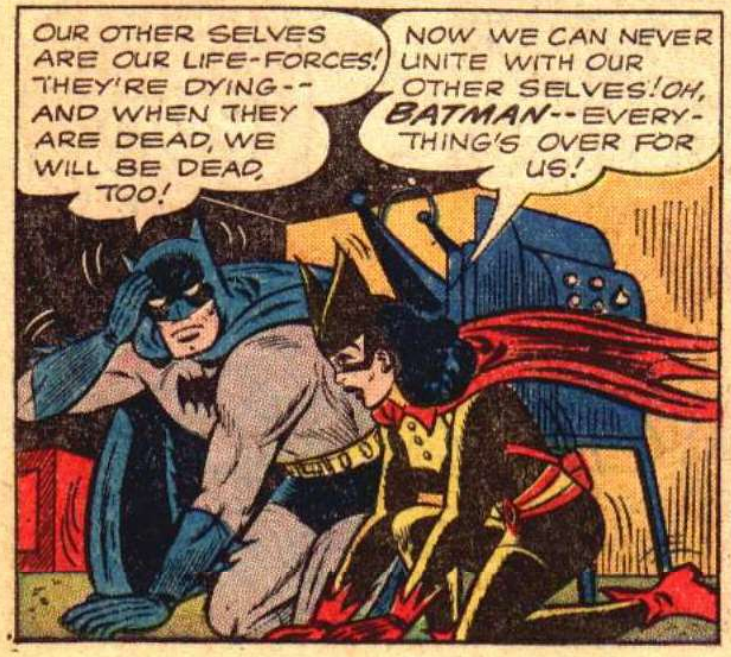
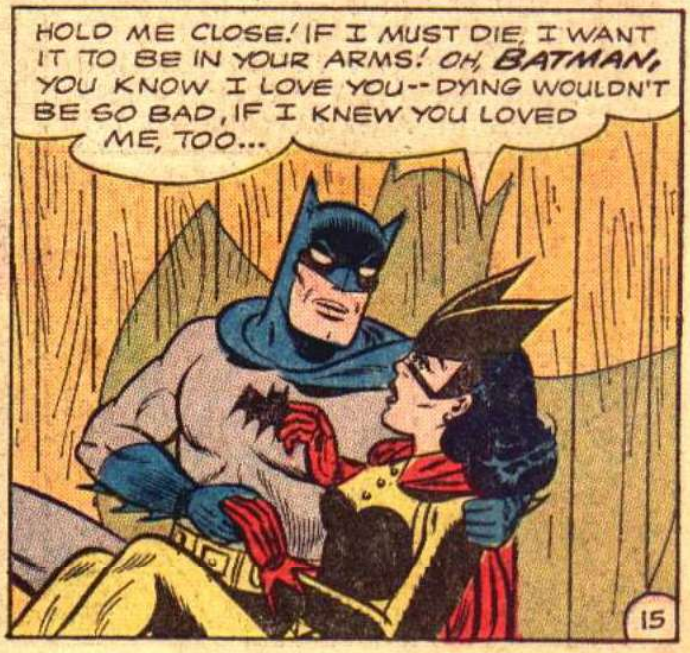
AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE ALIEN WORLD...
ODD! THE BIRD-PEOPLE ARE BECKONING! THEY SEEM TO BE IMPLORING US TO COME AWAY FROM THE BEAST'S BODY!
BUT WHY? THE BEAST CAN'T HARM US NOW THAT IT'S DYING!

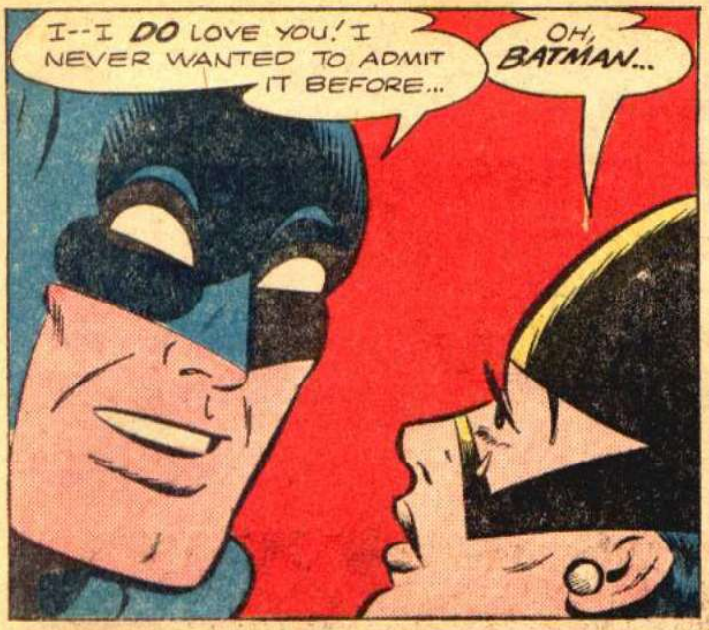

THEN, SOMETHING INCREDIBLE HAPPENS...
BATMAN-- I--I CAN'T MOVE!
NEITHER CAN I! GREAT SCOTT! OUR ENERGY FORMS ARE IMMOBILIZED BY THAT BEAST! NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THE BIRD-PEOPLE TRIED TO WARN US...

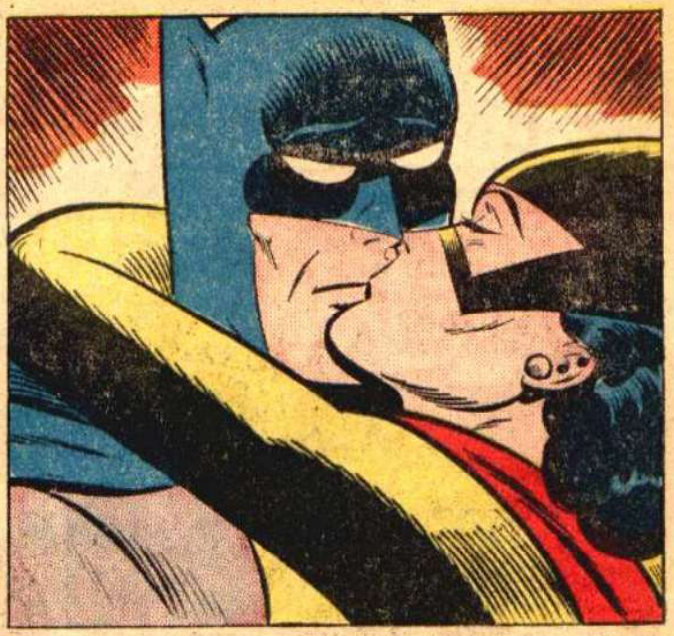

APPARENTLY, AS THIS PECULIAR BEAST DIES, ITS BODY ABSORBS ALL ENERGY NEAR IT!
BATMAN! AS OUR ENERGY DWINDLES, OUR FORMS ARE GROWING PALE! IN A SHORT WHILE, THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT OF US!

AND ON EARTH...
NOW WE CAN'T LIFT THE MACHINE! WE'RE EVEN WEAKER THAN BEFORE!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO OUR OTHER SELVES! THEIR ENERGIES ARE EBBING AWAY--AND AS THEY GET WEAKER, SO DO WE!


OUR OTHER SELVES ARE OUR LIFE-FORCES! THEY'RE DYING-- AND WHEN THEY ARE DEAD, WE WILL BE DEAD, TOO!
NOW WE CAN NEVER UNITE WITH OUR OTHER SELVES! OH, BATMAN--EVERYTHING'S OVER FOR US!


HOLD ME CLOSE! IF I MUST DIE, I WANT IT TO BE IN YOUR ARMS! OH, BATMAN, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU--DYING WOULDN'T BE SO BAD, IF I KNEW YOU LOVED ME, TOO...



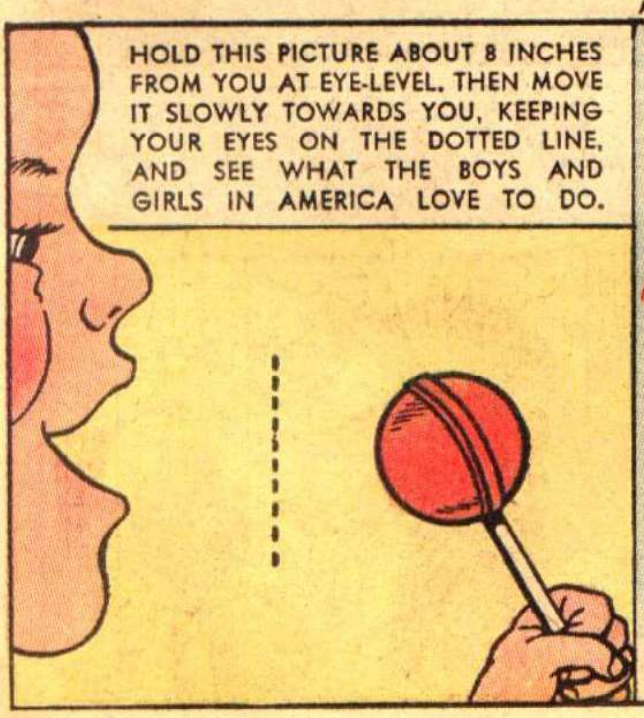


THE TWIN SELVES OF BATMAN AND BAT-WOMAN--DYING--YET HOPING FOR A MIRACLE! WHAT CAN SAVE THEM NOW?

CONTINUED IN CHAPTER 3

ADVERTISEMENT

HOLD THIS PICTURE ABOUT 8 INCHES FROM YOU AT EYE-LEVEL. THEN MOVE IT SLOWLY TOWARDS YOU, KEEPING YOUR EYES ON THE DOTTED LINE, AND SEE WHAT THE BOYS AND GIRLS IN AMERICA LOVE TO DO.



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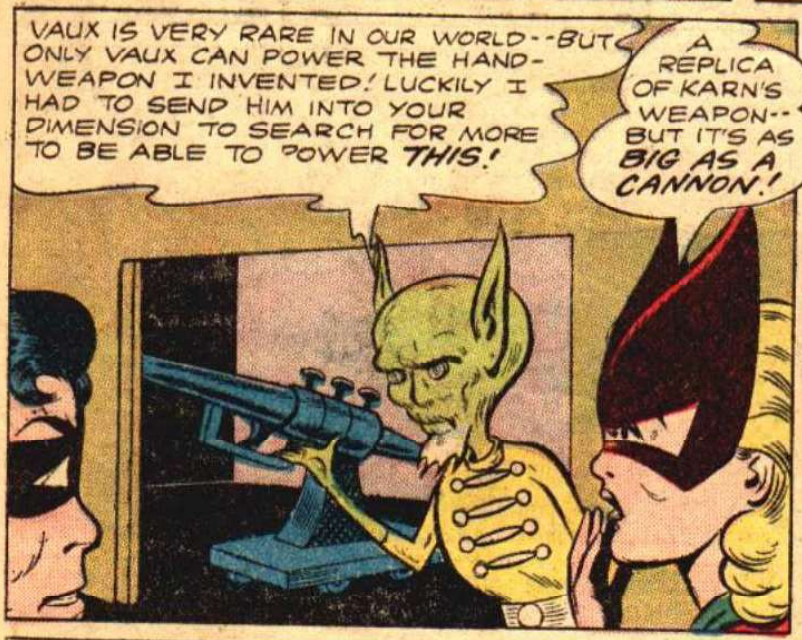

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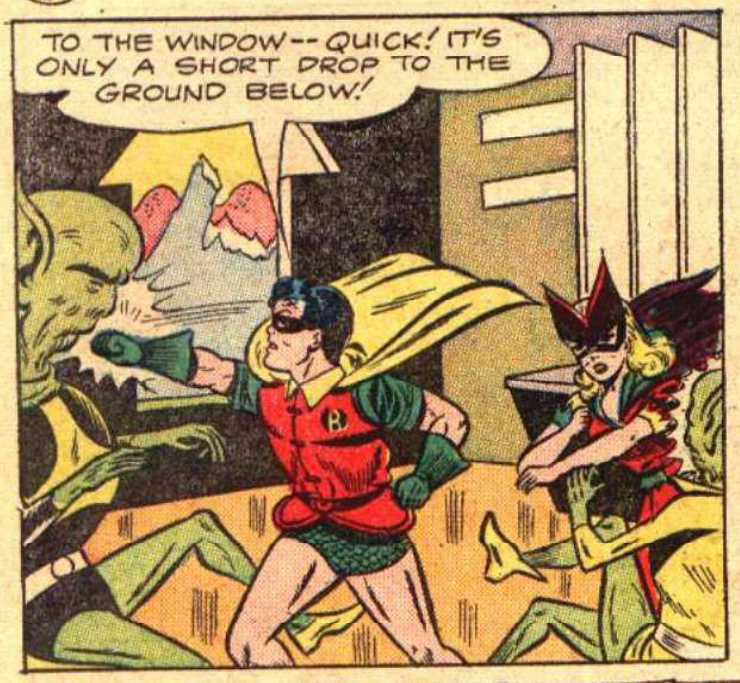
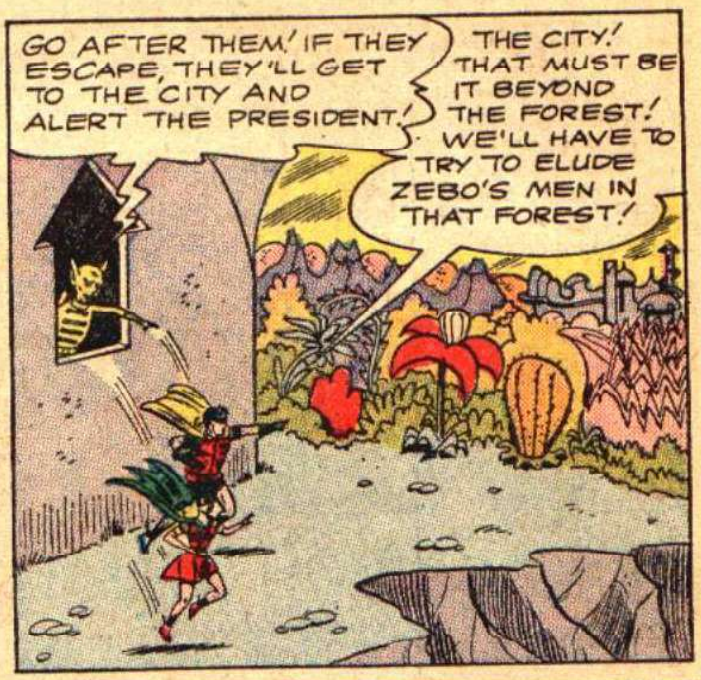
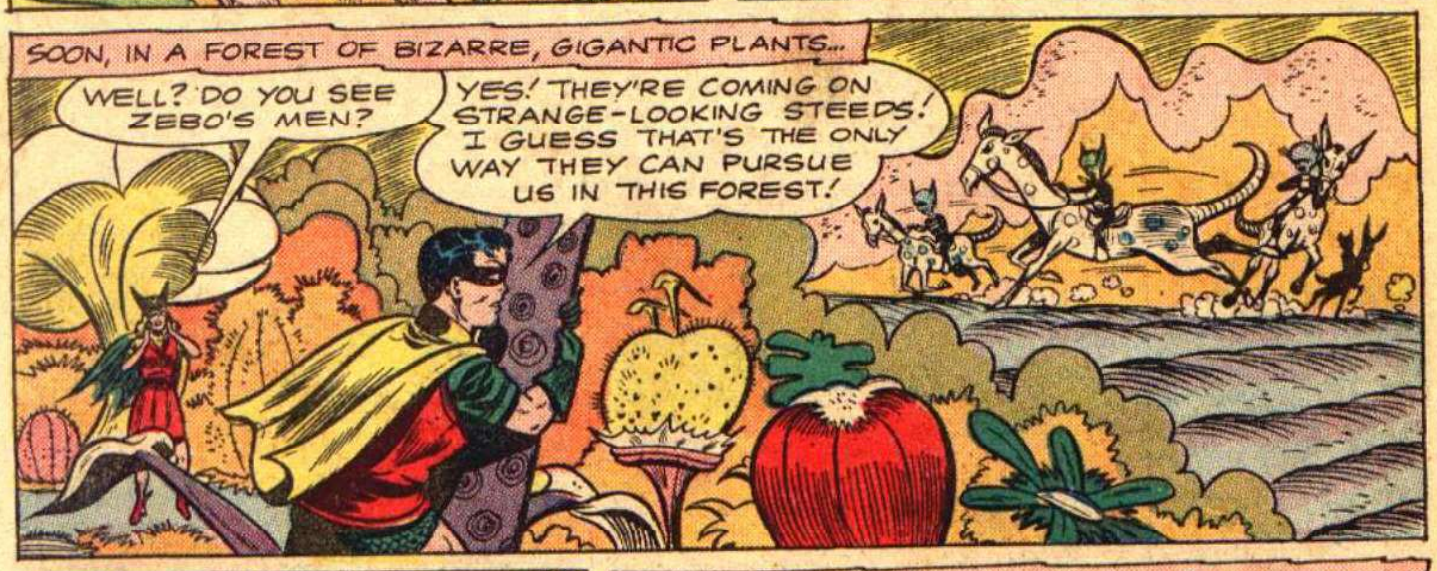
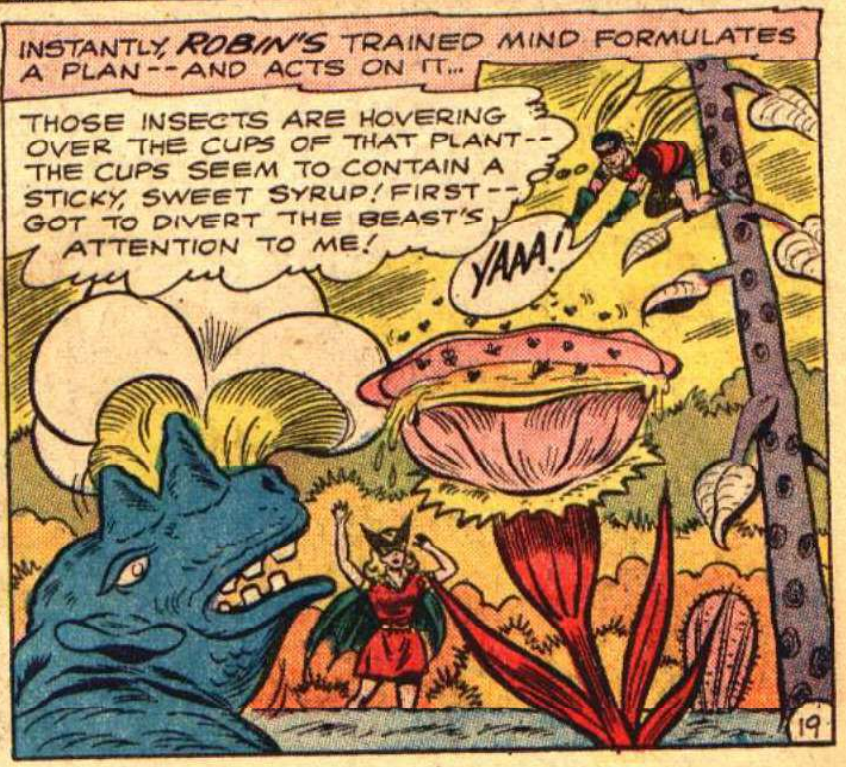
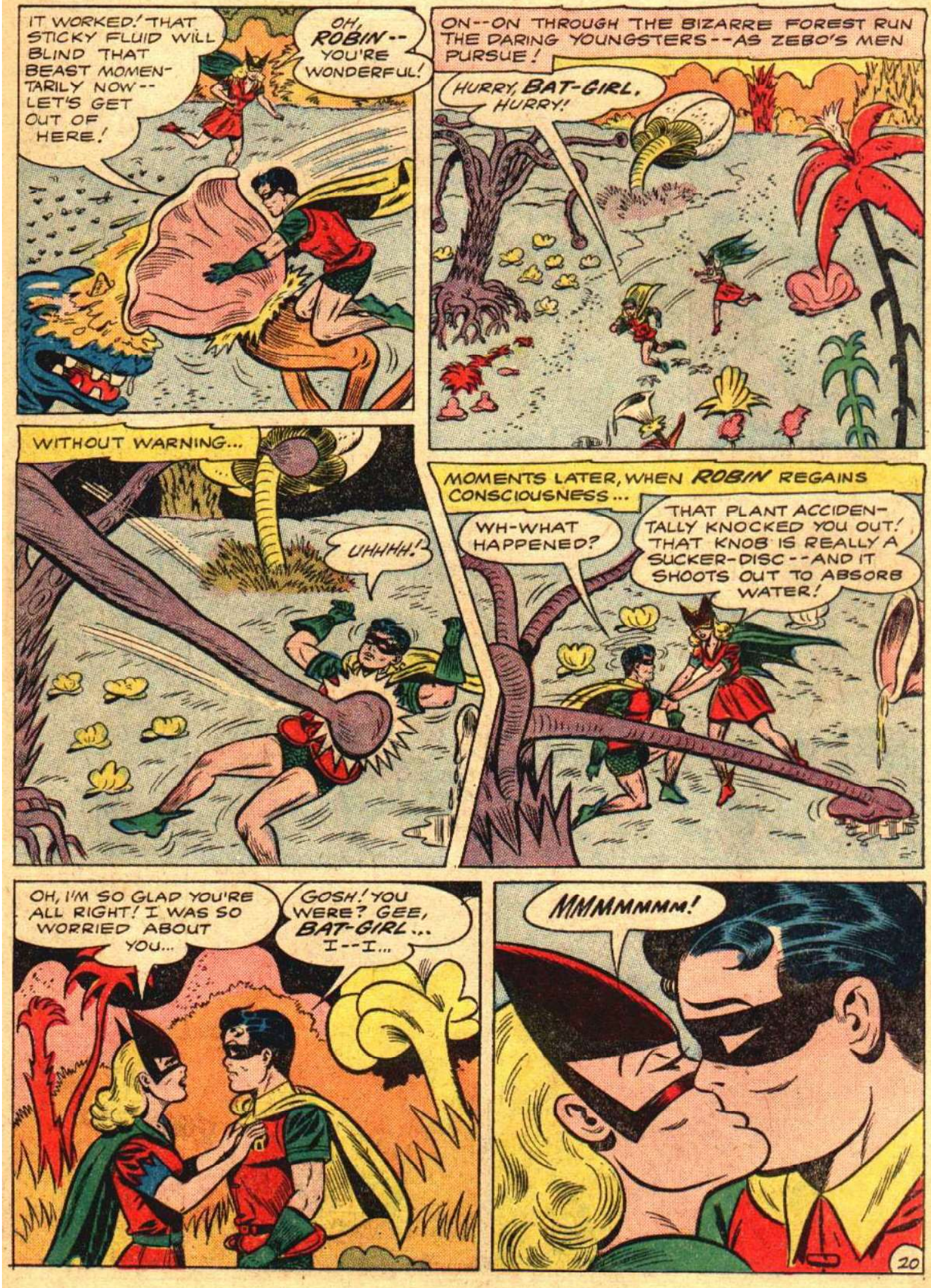

TO THE WINDOW -- QUICK! IT'S ONLY A SHORT DROP TO THE GROUND BELOW!


GO AFTER THEM! IF THEY ESCAPE, THEY'LL GET TO THE CITY AND ALERT THE PRESIDENT!
THE CITY! THAT MUST BE IT BEYOND THE FOREST! WE'LL HAVE TO TRY TO ELUDE ZEBO'S MEN IN THAT FOREST!

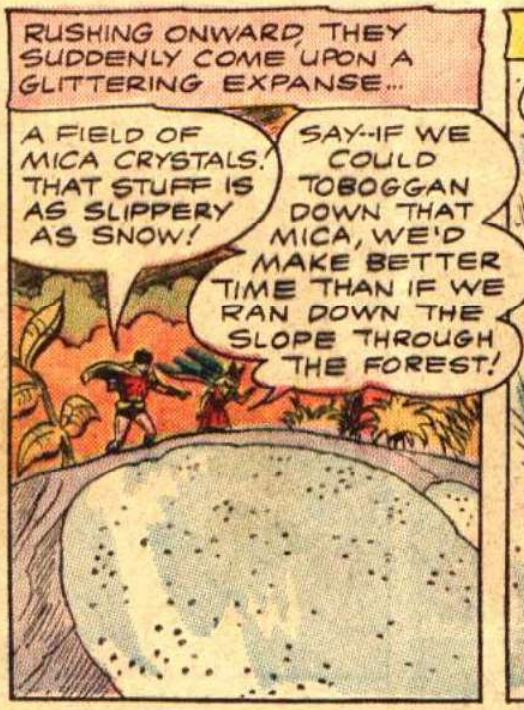

SOON, IN A FOREST OF BIZARRE, GIGANTIC PLANTS...
WELL? DO YOU SEE ZEBO'S MEN?
YES! THEY'RE COMING ON STRANGE-LOOKING STEEDS! I GUESS THAT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN PURSUE US IN THIS FOREST!

SUDDENLY...
EEEE!
AN ALIEN BEAST-- STALKING BAT-GIRL!


INSTANTLY, ROBIN'S TRAINED MIND FORMULATES A PLAN -- AND ACTS ON IT...
THOSE INSECTS ARE HOVERING OVER THE CUPS OF THAT PLANT -- THE CUPS SEEM TO CONTAIN A STICKY, SWEET SYRUP! FIRST -- GOT TO DIVERT THE BEAST'S ATTENTION TO ME!
YAAA!


IT WORKED! THAT STICKY FLUID WILL BLIND THAT BEAST MOMENTARILY NOW -- LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
OH, ROBIN -- YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
ON--ON THROUGH THE BIZARRE FOREST RUN THE DARING YOUNGSTERS--AS ZEBO'S MEN PURSUE!
HURRY, BAT-GIRL, HURRY!
WITHOUT WARNING...
UHHHH!
MOMENTS LATER, WHEN ROBIN REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
THAT PLANT ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKED YOU OUT! THAT KNOB IS REALLY A SUCKER-DISC--AND IT SHOOTS OUT TO ABSORB WATER!
OH, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
GOSH! YOU WERE? GEE, BAT-GIRL... I--I...
MMMMMMM!

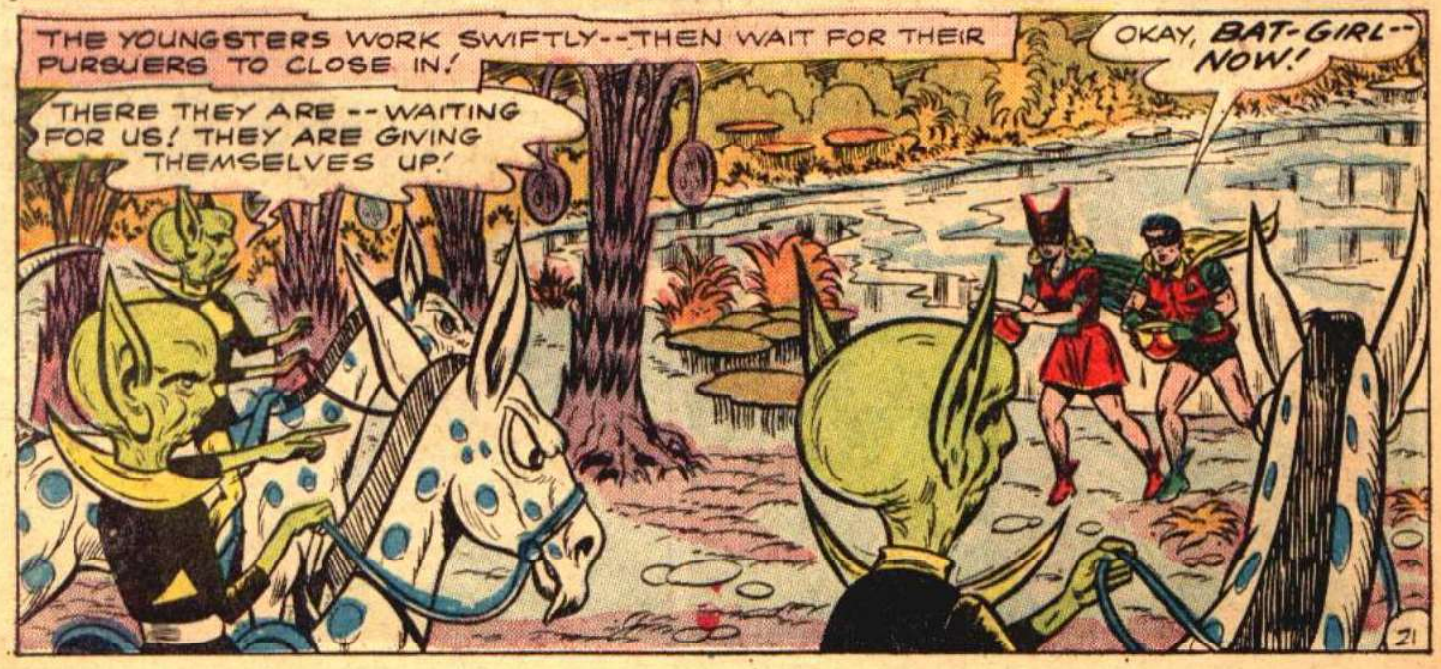
HOOF BEATS! ZEBO'S MEN ARE GETTING CLOSER!
CLOP CLOP CLOP


RUSHING ONWARD, THEY SUDDENLY COME UPON A GLITTERING EXPANSE...
A FIELD OF MICA CRYSTALS! THAT STUFF IS AS SLIPPERY AS SNOW!
SAY--IF WE COULD TOBOGGAN DOWN THAT MICA, WE'D MAKE BETTER TIME THAN IF WE RAN DOWN THE SLOPE THROUGH THE FOREST!

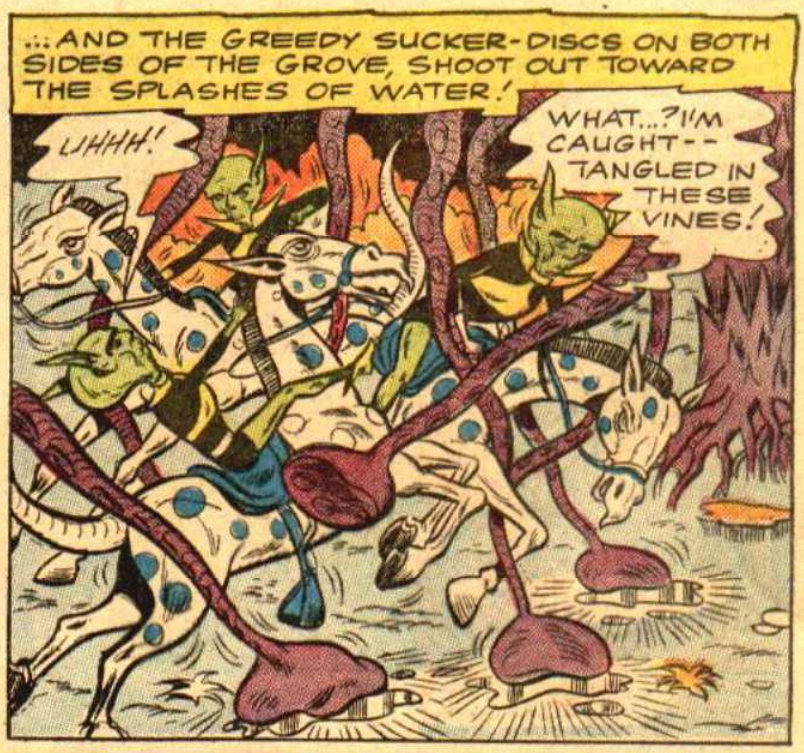
MINUTES LATER...
NOT BAD, EH? THESE BIG LEAVES MAKE GREAT SLEDS!

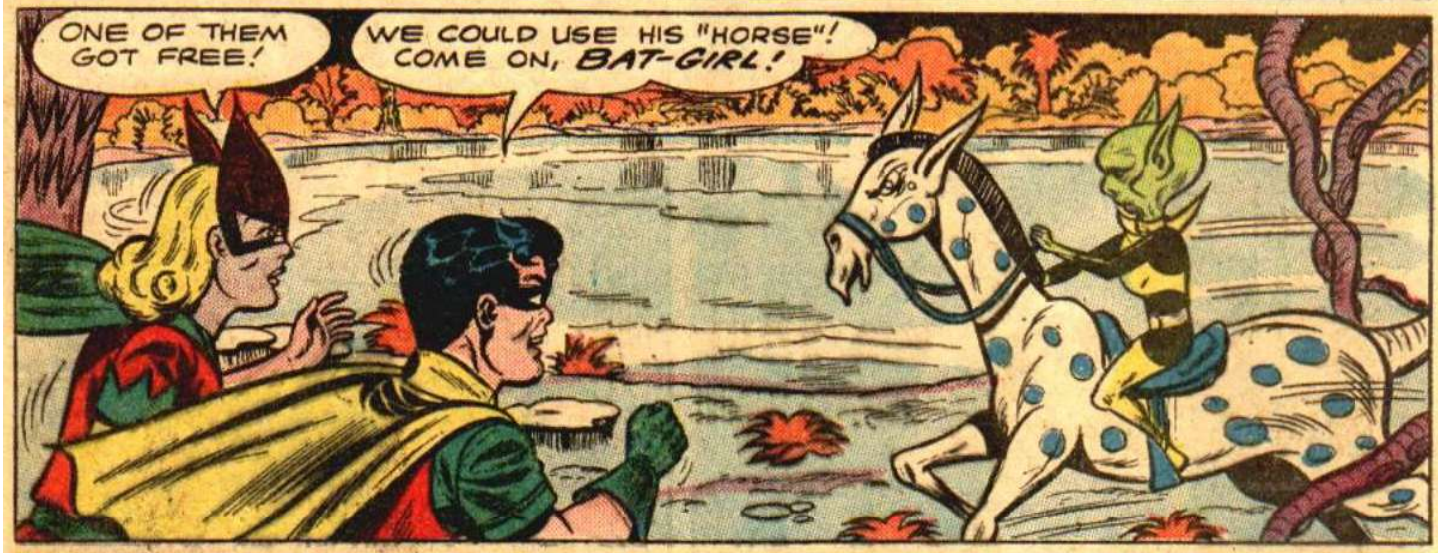
BUT SHORTLY AFTER...
CLOP CLOP CLOP
OH, NO! A LAKE! WE COULD NEVER SWIM ACROSS FAST ENOUGH-- AND IF WE CIRCLE AROUND IT THROUGH THE FOREST, ZEBO'S MEN WILL CATCH UP TO US!

HMM! A LAKE IN FRONT--AND THOSE WATER-SUCKING PLANTS BEHIND US! I'VE GOT AN IDEA...

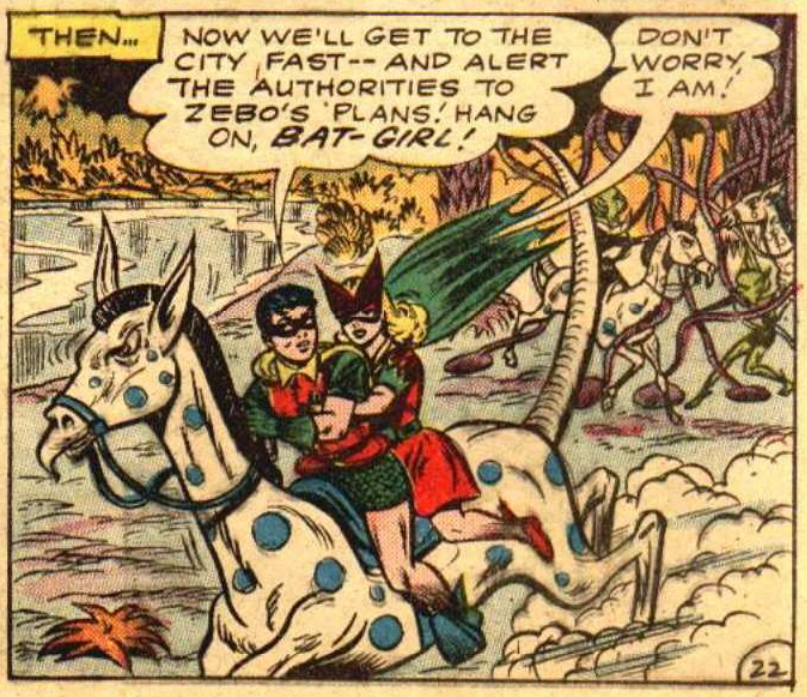

THE YOUNGSTERS WORK SWIFTLY--THEN WAIT FOR THEIR PURSUERS TO CLOSE IN!
THERE THEY ARE--WAITING FOR US! THEY ARE GIVING THEMSELVES UP!
OKAY, BAT-GIRL--NOW!

INSTANTLY THE YOUNGSTERS HURL WATER-FILLED PLANT CUPS FORWARD...
WHAT...?


...AND THE GREEDY SUCKER-DISCS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE GROVE, SHOOT OUT TOWARD THE SPLASHES OF WATER!
UHHH!
WHAT...?I'M CAUGHT-- TANGLED IN THESE VINES!

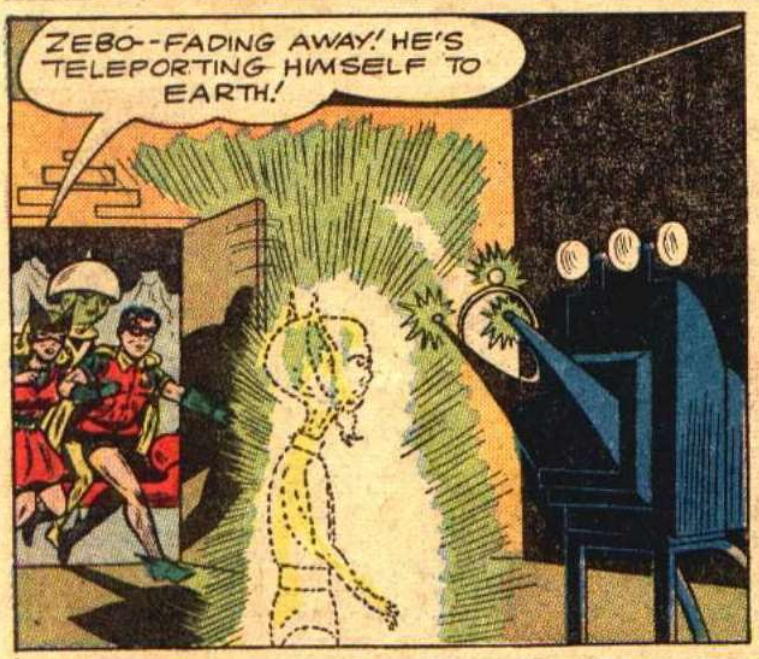

ONE OF THEM GOT FREE!
WE COULD USE HIS "HORSE"! COME ON, BAT-GIRL!

AND OUT! NICE TEAMWORK, PARTNER!
UP...


THEN...
NOW WE'LL GET TO THE CITY FAST-- AND ALERT THE AUTHORITIES TO ZEBO'S PLANS! HANG ON, BAT-GIRL!
DON'T WORRY, I AM!

SHORTLY AFTER ...
WHAT...? GOVERNMENT TROOPS! THOSE YOUNGSTERS DID GET TO THE PRESIDENT, AFTER ALL!

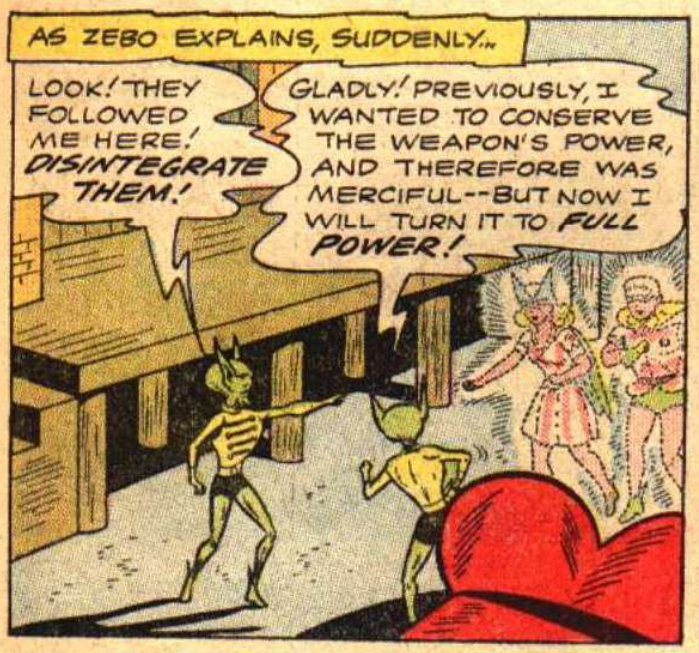
ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO NOW-- TELEPORT MYSELF TO JOIN KARN, AND HIDE IN EARTH'S DIMENSION!

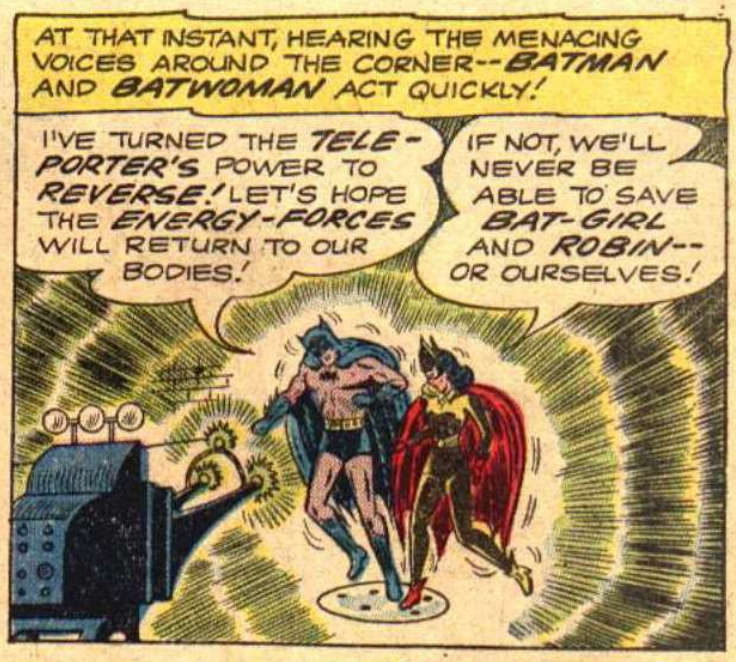

ZEBO--FADING AWAY! HE'S TELEPORTING HIMSELF TO EARTH!

MEANWHILE, ON EARTH, BATMAN HAS THOUGHT OF A PLAN, AND ACTS ON IT!
AT LEAST OUR WEIGHT... AND REMAINING STRENGTH... IS ENOUGH TO TIP OVER THIS MACHINE A BIT...
LUCKILY... THERE WERE A FEW OLD SKATES... LEFT BEHIND... IN THIS DEFUNCT ROLLER SKATE FACTORY! KEEP THE TELEPORTER BALANCED... WHILE I... SLIP TWO SKATES UNDER THE CORNERS... ON THIS SIDE...

UPON REPEATING THE PROCESS, AND TYING THE SKATES TO THE CORNERS, BATMAN AND BATWOMAN SUMMON UP THEIR REMAINING STRENGTH TO PUSH THE TELEPORTER OUT OF THE FACTORY...
OH... SO TIRED... SO TIRED...
DON'T STOP NOW... GOT TO KEEP GOING... THE MANHOLE COVER... ONLY A FEW YARDS AWAY FROM US NOW...

AT THAT MOMENT, AS KARN NEARS HIS HIDEOUT WITH SILVER HE HAS JUST STOLEN.
ZEBO--HERE! WHAT'S HAPPENED?
EVERYTHING! BECAUSE OF THOSE TWO YOUNGSTERS YOU SENT TO OUR DIMENSION, OUR PLANS ARE RUINED!


AS ZEBO EXPLAINS, SUDDENLY...
LOOK! THEY FOLLOWED ME HERE! DISINTEGRATE THEM!
GLADLY! PREVIOUSLY, I WANTED TO CONSERVE THE WEAPON'S POWER, AND THEREFORE WAS MERCIFUL--BUT NOW I WILL TURN IT TO FULL POWER!


AT THAT INSTANT, HEARING THE MENACING VOICES AROUND THE CORNER--BATMAN AND BATWOMAN ACT QUICKLY!
I'VE TURNED THE TELE-PORTER'S POWER TO REVERSE! LET'S HOPE THE ENERGY-FORCES WILL RETURN TO OUR BODIES!
IF NOT, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SAVE BAT-GIRL AND ROBIN--OR OURSELVES!

IN THAT SPLIT-INSTANT, ON THE OTHER WORLD...
BATMAN--SOME POWER IS TUGGING AT ME!
WE'RE SAVED! WE'RE GOING BACK! WE'RE GOING BACK!

AND, SUDDENLY, ON EARTH, BATMAN AND BATWOMAN ARE REVITALIZED--COMPLETE BEINGS AGAIN!
THAT DYING BEAST DRAINED OFF SOME OF OUR NORMAL STRENGTH--BUT WE'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH TO HANDLE THOSE TWO ALIENS!
WHAT...?

NOW I FEEL LIKE MY OLD SELF AGAIN!

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, JULY 2, 1946 AND JUNE 11, 1960 (74 STAT. 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF BATMAN, published 8 times yearly at Sparta, Illinois for October 1, 1962.

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J. S. Liebowitz, Business Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of September, 1962.
Daniel Epstein, Notary Public
(My commission expires March 30, 1963)